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PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

EDITED BY

CAPT. C. H. B. GRANT.

VOLUME LVIII.
SESSION 1937–1938.

LONDON:
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1938

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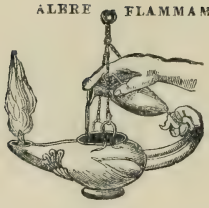

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RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET.

PREFACE.

PURCHASED

The number of attendances during the past Session was :— 341 members, 30 members of the B. O. U., and 129 guests— a total of 500.

Mr. G. M. Mathews, the Chairman of the Club, gave his annual address at the November Meeting, dealing with general matters, and a Regional Review from October 1936 to October 1937.

Among the many interesting communications and exhibits given during the Session were—Mr. W. B. Alexander and Mr. H. N. Southern's remarks on the distribution of the bridled form of the Common Guillemot ; Professor J. B. Cleland's talk on the bird-life in Australia ; Mr. J. Delacour's account of his cruise with Lord Moyne ; Dr. Hellmayr's talk on the birds in and around Vienna ; Dr. G. Carmichael Low's exhibition of Pheasants and a Partridge showing perversion of plumage ; The Marquess of Tavistock's exhibition of the eggs of the Tahiti Blue Lory ; Mr. H. F. Witherby's remarks on the Corsican Nuthatch.

Films and slides were shown by—Mr. E. G. Bird, film of the birds of East Greenland ; Mrs. Seton Gordon, film of sea-birds ; Capt. C. W. R. Knight, film on Hawks and hawking ; Mr. H. W. Mackworth-Praed, film of Oulton Decoy ; Mr. A. H. Chisholm, slides on bird-life in Australia; Col. R. Meinertzhagen, slides on Afghanistan ; Mr. H. St. J. B. Philby, slides on Arabia ; Mr. B. Roberts, slides of Antarctic Birds ; Mr. H. S. Thompson, slides of sea-birds ; Dr. A. Landsborough-Thomson, slides on migration of Pintail ; Mr. B. W. Tucker, slides of Lapland ; Mr. G. K. Yeates, slides of bird-life of the Camargue.

New forms were described by—Dr. D. A. Bannerman, Mr. G. L. Bates, Mr. C. W. Benson, Monsieur J. Berlioz, Dr. J. M. Derscheid, Mr. M. Dunajewski, Capt. C. H. B. Grant, the Marquess Hachisuka, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed, Mr. G. M. Mathews, Col. R. Meinertzhagen, Mr. R. E. Moreau, Mr. R. H. W. Pakenham, Mr. A. J. van Rossem, Mr. H. Whistler.

The Club entertained as distinguished guests—Professor F. S. Bodenheimer, Mr. A. H. Chisholm, Professor J. B. Cleland, Mrs. Seton Gordon, Dr. C. E. Hellmayr, Mr. W. Meise, Mr. H. St. J. B. Philby, Mr. A. J. van Rossem, Mr. H. S. Thompson, Mr. G. K. Yeates.

CLAUDE H. B. GRANT,
Editor.

London, July 1938.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(Founded October 5, 1892.)

TITLE AND OBJECTS.

The objects of the Club, which shall be called the "British Ornithologists' Club," are the promotion of social intercourse between Members of the British Ornithologists' Union and to facilitate the publication of scientific information connected with ornithology.

RULES.

(*As amended, October* 13, 1937.)

Management.

I. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of a Chairman, who shall be elected for three years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term; a Vice-Chairman, who shall serve for one year, and who shall not be eligible for the next year; an Editor of the 'Bulletin,' who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term; a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall each be elected for a term of one year, but who shall be eligible for re-election. There shall be in addition four other Members, the senior of whom shall retire each year, and another Member be elected in his place; every third year the two senior Members shall retire and two other Members be elected in their place. Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of the Club at a General Meeting, and the names of such Officers and Members of Committee nominated by the Committee for the ensuing year shall be circulated with the notice convening the General Meeting at least two weeks before the Meeting. Should any Member wish to propose another candidate, the nomination of such, signed by at least two Members, must reach the Secretary at least one clear week before the Annual General Meeting.

II. Any Member desiring to make a complaint of the manner in which the affairs of the Club are conducted must communicate in writing with the Chairman, who will, if he deem fit, call a Committee Meeting to deal with the matter.

III. If the conduct of any Member shall be deemed by the Committee to be prejudicial to the interests of the Club, he may be requested by the Committee to withdraw from the Club. In the case of refusal, his name may be removed from the list of Members at a General Meeting, provided that, in the notice calling the Meeting, intimation of the proposed resolution to remove his name shall have been given, and that a majority of the Members voting at such Meeting record their votes for his removal.

Subscriptions.

IV. Any Member of the British Ornithologists' Union may become a Member of the Club on payment to the Treasurer of an entrance-fee of one pound and a subscription of one guinea for the current Session. On Membership of the Union ceasing, Membership of the Club also ceases.

Any Member who has not paid his subscription before the last Meeting of the Session shall cease, *ipso facto*, to be a Member of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears.

Any Member who has resigned less than five years ago may be reinstated without payment of another Entrance Fee.

Any Member who resigns his Membership on going abroad may be readmitted without payment of a further Entrance Fee at the Committee's discretion.

Temporary Associates.

V. Members of the British Ornithologists' Union who are ordinarily resident outside the British Isles, and ornithologists from the British Empire overseas or from foreign countries, may be admitted at the discretion of the Committee as Temporary Associates of the Club for the duration of any visit to the British Isles not exceeding one Session. An entrance fee of five shillings shall be payable in respect of every such admission

if the period exceeds three months. The privileges of Temporary Associates shall be limited to attendance at the ordinary meetings of the Club and the introduction of guests.

Meetings.

VI. The Club will meet, as a rule, on the second Wednesday in every month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee, but should such Wednesday happen to be Ash Wednesday, the Meeting will take place on the Wednesday following. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects will be read, specimens exhibited and described, and discussion invited.

VII. A General Meeting of the Club shall be held on the day of the October Meeting of each Session, and the Treasurer shall present thereat the Balance-sheet and Report; and the election of Officers and Committee, in so far as their election is required, shall be held at such Meeting.

VIII. A Special General Meeting may be called at the instance of the Committee for any purpose which they deem to be of sufficient importance, or at the instance of not fewer than fifteen Members. Notice of not less than two weeks shall be given of every General and Special General Meeting.

Introduction of Visitors.

IX. Members may introduce visitors at any ordinary Meeting of the Club, but the same guest shall not be eligible to attend on more than three occasions during the Session. No former Member who has been removed for non-payment of subscription, or for any other cause, shall be allowed to attend as a guest.

'Bulletin' of the Club.

X. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the Club shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and shall be distributed gratis to every Member who has paid his subscription.

Contributors are entitled to six free copies of the ' Bulletin,' but if they desire to exercise this privilege they must give notice to the Editor when their manuscript is handed in. Members purchasing extra copies of the ' Bulletin ' are entitled to a rebate of 25 per cent. on the published price, but not more than two copies can be sold to any Member unless ordered before printing.

Descriptions of new species may be published in the ' Bulletin,' although such were not communicated at the Meeting of the Club. This shall be done at the discretion of the Editor and so long as the publication of the ' Bulletin ' is not unduly delayed thereby.

Any person speaking at a Meeting of the Club shall be allowed subsequently—subject to the discretion of the Editor—to amplify his remarks in the ' Bulletin,' but no fresh matter shall be incorporated with such remarks.

XI. No communication, the whole or any important part of which has already been published elsewhere, shall be eligible for publication in the ' Bulletin,' except at the discretion of the Editor ; and no communication made to the Club may be subsequently published elsewhere without the written sanction of the Editor.

Alteration and Repeal of Rules.

XII. Any suggested alteration or repeal of a standing rule shall be submitted to Members to be voted upon at a General Meeting convened for that purpose.

COMMITTEE, 1937–1938.

G. M. Mathews, *Chairman.* Elected 1935.
Col. R. Sparrow, *Vice-Chairman.* Elected 1937.
Capt. C. H. B. Grant, *Editor.* Elected 1935.
Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, *Hon. Secretary.* Elected 1935.
Major A. G. L. Sladen, *Hon. Treasurer.* Elected 1936.
J. H. McNeile. Elected 1935.
W. B. Alexander. Elected 1936.
Miss E. P. Leach. Elected 1937.
H. Leybourne Popham. Elected 1937.

Officers of the British Ornithologists' Club, Past and Present.

Chairmen.

P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.	1892–1913.
Lord Rothschild, F.R.S.	1913–1918.
W. L. Sclater.	1918–1924.
H. F. Witherby.	1924–1927.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1927–1930.
Major S. S. Flower.	1930–1932.
D. A. Bannerman.	1932–1935.
G. M. Mathews.	1935–1938.

Vice-Chairmen.

Lord Rothschild, F.R.S.	1930–1931.
W. L. Sclater.	1931–1932.
H. F. Witherby.	1932–1933.
G. M. Mathews.	1933–1934.
N. B. Kinnear.	1934–1935.
H. Whistler.	1935–1936.
D. Seth-Smith.	1936–1937.
Col. R. Sparrow.	1937–1938.

Editors.

R. Bowdler Sharpe.	1892–1904.
W. R. Ogilvie-Grant.	1904–1914.
D. A. Bannerman.	1914–1915.
D. Seth-Smith.	1915–1920.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1920–1925.
N. B. Kinnear.	1925–1930.
Dr. G. Carmichael Low.	1930–1935.
Captain C. H. B. Grant.	1935–

Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers.

Howard Saunders.	1892–1899.
W. E. de Winton.	1899–1904.
H. F. Witherby.	1904–1914.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1914–1915.
C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby.	1915–1918.
D. A. Bannerman.	1918–1919.
Dr. Philip Gosse.	1919–1920.
J. L. Bonhote.	1920–1922.
C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1922–1923.
Dr. G. Carmichael Low.	1923–1929.
C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1929–1935.

Honorary Secretaries.

Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson.	1935–1938.

Honorary Treasurers.

C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1935–1936.
Major A. G. L. Sladen.	1936–

LIST OF MEMBERS.

JUNE 1938.

Acland, Miss C. M. ; Walwood, Banstead, Surrey.

Alexander, H. G. ; 144 Oak Tree Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham.

Alexander, W. B., M.A. (*Committee*) ; Dept. of Zoology, University Museum, Oxford.

Alymer, Commdr. E. A., R.N. ; Wyke Oliver, Preston, Dorset.

Baker, E. C. Stuart, C.I.E., O.B.E., F.L.S., H.F.A.O.U. ; 6 Harold Road, Upper Norwood, S.E. 19.

Bannerman, David A., M.B.E., Sc.D., F.R.S.E. (*Chairman*, 1932–1935) ; British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S.W. 7 ; and 7 Pembroke Gardens, Kensington, W. 8.

Barclay-Smith, Miss P. ; Park Lodge, Hervey Road, Blackheath, S.E. 3.

Barnes, Mrs. R. G. ; Hungerdown, Seagry, Wilts.

Barrington, Frederick J. F., M.S., F.R.C.S. ; University College Hospital Medical School, Gower Street, W.C. 1.

Bates, G. L. ; Blasford Hill, Little Waltham, Chelmsford.

Benson, C. W. ; c/o Secretariat, Zomba, Nyasaland.

Best, Miss M. G. S. ; 10 A Cresswell Place, S.W. 10.

Betham, Brigadier-General R. M., C.I.E. ; c/o The National Provincial and Union Bank of England, 208–209 Piccadilly, W. 1.

Blaker, George B. ; Gaveston Place, Nuthurst, Horsham, Sussex.

Boorman, S. ; Heath Farm, Send, Woking, Surrey.

Booth, H. B. ; Ryhill, Ben Rhydding, Yorks.

Boyd, A. W., M.C. ; Frandley House, near Northwich, Cheshire.

Bradford, A. D. ; Garston House, near Watford, Herts.

Brown, George ; Combe Manor, Hungerford, Berks.

Butler, Arthur L.; St. Leonard's Park, Horsham, Sussex.

Buxton, Anthony; Horsey Hall, Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk.

Campbell, Dr. James W.; Layer Marney Hall, Kelvedon, Essex.

Carter, Miss B. A.; Firtree Cottage, Chipperfield, King's Langley, Herts.

Cave, Captain F. O.; Stoner Hill, Petersfield, Hants.

Chapin, Dr. James P.; Musée du Congo, Tervueren, Belgium; and American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, New York City, U.S.A.

Chapman, F. M.; American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, New York City, U.S.A.

Charles, Mrs. Edith S.; Woodside House, Chenies, Bucks.

Charteris, Hon. G. L.; 24 Oxford Square, W. 2.

Chasen, Frederick N.; Raffles Museum, Singapore.

Cheesman, Major R. E., O.B.E.; Tilsden, Cranbrook, Kent.

Clarke, Brig.-General Goland van Holt, C.M.G., D.S.O.; Wiston Park, Steyning, Sussex.

Clarke, John P. Stephenson; Broadhurst Manor, Horsted Keynes, Sussex.

Clarke, Col. Stephenson Robert, C.B.; Borde Hill, Cuckfield, Sussex.

Cleave, Henry P. O.; Mansfield House, Kendrick Road, Reading.

Cochrane, Captain Henry L., R.N. (retd.); Court Place, West Monkton, Taunton, Somerset.

Conover, H. B.; 6 Scott Street, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Cunningham, Josias; Drinagh, Kensington Road, Knock, Belfast.

Curtis, Frederick, F.R.C.S.; Alton House, Redhill, Surrey.

Deane, Robert H.; Anne Boleyn Cottage, Carlton Road, Seaford, Sussex.

Delacour, Jean; Chateau de Clères, Clères, Seine-Inférieure, France.

Dewhurst, Major F. W., Royal Marine Barracks, Plymouth.

Dobie, William Henry, M.R.C.S.; 32 St. Martin's Fields, Chester.

Duncan, Arthur Bryce ; Gilchristlands, Closeburn, Dumfriesshire.

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Ezra, A., O.B.E. ; Foxwarren Park, Cobham, Surrey.

Ferrier, Miss Judith M. ; Hemsby Hall, Hemsby, Norfolk.

Fisher, James ; Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W. 8.

Fisher, Kenneth ; School House, Oundle, Northamptonshire.

Flower, Major S. S. (*Chairman*, 1930–1932) ; 27 Park Road, Tring, Herts.

Foulkes-Roberts, Captain P. R. ; Westwood, Goring-on-Thames, Oxon.

Gilbert, H. A. ; Bishopstone, near Hereford.

Glegg, W. E. ; 2 Burlington House, King's Road, Richmond, Surrey.

Glenister, A. G. ; The Barn House, East Blatchington, Seaford, Sussex.

Godman, Miss Eva ; South Lodge, Horsham, Sussex.

Gosnell, H. T. ; The Boreen, Headley Down, Bordon, Hants.

Grant, Captain C. H. B. (*Editor of the 'Bulletin'*) ; 58 A Ennismore Gardens, S.W. 7.

Gyldenstolpe, Count Nils ; Royal (Natural History) Museum, Stockholm, Sweden.

Hachisuka, The Marquess ; Mitashiba, Tokyo, Japan.

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Hale, Rev. James R., M.A. ; Yalding Vicarage, Maidstone, Kent.

Hamerton, Colonel A. E. ; 1 Park Village West, Regent's Park, N.W. 1.

Harrison, Bernard Guy ; 45 St. Martin's Lane, W.C. 2.

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Hopkinson, Emilius, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.B. ; Wynstay, Balcombe, Sussex.

Hutson, Lieut-Col. H. P. W., R.E. ; Chatham House, Rome Gardens, Abassia, Cairo, Egypt.

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Ingram, Capt. Collingwood ; The Grange, Benenden, Cranbrook, Kent.

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Mavrogordato, J. G. ; Mariners, Westerham, Kent.

May, W. Norman, M.D. ; The White House, Sonning, Berks.

Mayaud, Noel ; Le Lys, par le Puy-Notre-Dame, Maine-et-Loire, France.

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Murton, Mrs. C. D. ; Cranbrook Lodge, Cranbrook, Kent.

Musselwhite, D. W. ; 59 Mayford Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W. 12.

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North, M. E. W. ; c/o Secretariat, Nairobi, Kenya.

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Peall, Mrs. Oscar ; Oare, Marlborough, Wilts.

Pease, H. J. R. ; Medmenham, Marlow, Bucks.

Phillips, A. S. ; 56 Acacia Road, N.W. 5.

Pitman, Capt. C. R. S., D.S.O., M.C. ; c/o Grindlay & Co., 54 Parliament Street, S.W. 1.

Popham, Hugh Leyborne, M.A. ; Hunstrete House, Pensford, Somerset.

Priestley, Mrs. Mary ; 3 The Grove, Highgate Village, N. 6.

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Rivière, B. B., F.R.C.S. ; The Old Hall, Woodbastwick, Norfolk.

Sandeman, R. G. C. C. ; Dan-y-parc, Crickhowell, Brecon.

Schauensee, R. M. de ; Devon, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Schouteden, Dr. H. ; Musée du Congo, Tervueren, Belgium.

Sclater, William Lutley, M.A. (*Chairman*, 1918–1924) ; 10 Sloane Court, S.W. 3.

Seth-Smith, David ; Curator's House, Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W. 8.

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Shipton, Wm., M.D. ; 2 The Square, Buxton, Derbyshire.

Simonds, Major Maurice H. ; Fines Baylewick, Binfield, Berks.

Sladen, Major A. G. Lambart, M.C. (*Treasurer*) ; Horsenden Manor, Princes Risborough, Bucks ; and 39 St. James's Street, S.W. 1.

Sparrow, Col. R., C.M.G., D.S.O. (*Vice-Chairman*) ; The Lodge, Colne Engaine, Earls Colne, Essex.

Stares, J. W. C. ; Portchester, Hants.

Steuart, Mrs. Ronald ; The Old Rectory, North Fambridge, Chelmsford, Essex.

Stevens, Herbert ; Clovelly, Beaconsfield Road, Tring, Herts.

Stevens, Noël ; Walcot Hall, Lydbury North, Salop.

Stonor, C. R. ; British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S.W. 7.

Taka-Tsukasa, Prince Nobusuke ; 1732 Sanchome, Kami-meguro, Meguro-Ku, Tokyo, Japan.

Taylor, Miss D. L. ; Bellefields, Englefield Green, Surrey.

Tavistock, The Most Hon. the Marquess of ; Barrington House, Hayward's Heath, Sussex.

Thomson, A. Landsborough, C.B., O.B.E., D.Sc., F.R.S.E. (*Secretary*) ; 16 Tregunter Road, S.W. 10.

Ticehurst, Claud B., M.A., M.R.C.S. ; Saxon House, Appledore, Kent.

Ticehurst, N. F., O.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S. ; 24 Pevensey Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

Tucker, B. W., B.A. ; 9 Marston Ferry Road, Oxford.

Turner, Miss E. L. ; The Half Way Cottage, 13 Storey's Way, Cambridge.

Turtle, Lancelot J. ; 17–21 Castle Place, Belfast.

Urquhart, Capt. Alastair, D.S.O. ; Latimer Cottage, Latimer, Chesham, Bucks.

van Someren, Dr. V. G. L. ; East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society, Coryndon Memorial Museum, Nairobi, Kenya Colony, East Africa.

Vernay, A. S. ; 51 Berkeley Square, W. 1.

Vincent, J. ; c/o Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, Transvaal, South Africa.

Wade, Major G. A., M.C. ; St. Quintin, Sandy Lane, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs.

Wait, W. E., C.M.G., C.F.A.O.U. ; Applegarth, Aldbury, near Tring, Herts.

Waite, Herbert William ; c/o Messrs. Grindlay & Co., Ltd., Bombay, India.

Wallis, H. M. ; 110 Kendrick Road, Reading, Berks.

Ware, R. ; Leafwood, Frant, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Watt, Mrs. H. W. Boyd ; 90 Parliament Hill Mansions, Lissenden Gardens, N.W. 5.

WHISTLER, HUGH, F.L.S. ; Caldbec House, Battle, Sussex.
WHITE, CHARLES M. N. ; Park-View, Garstang Road, Broughton, near Preston, Lancs.
WHITE, S. J. ; 17 Philpot Lane, E.C. 3.
WHITLEY, H. ; Primley, Paignton, S. Devon.
WILLOUGHBY-ELLIS, H. ; Friary Hill, Weybridge, Surrey.
WISHART, E. E. ; Marsh Farm, Binsted, Arundel, Sussex.
WITHERBY, HARRY F., M.B.E. (*Chairman*, 1924–1927) ; Gracious Pond Farm, Chobham, near Woking, Surrey.
WITHERINTON, G. ; Sumner Plat, Hayward's Heath, Sussex.
WOOD, CASEY A., M.D. ; c/o The Library of Ornithology, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
WORKMAN, WILLIAM HUGHES ; Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast.
WORMS, CHARLES DE ; Milton Park, Egham, Surrey.

Total number of Members 169

NOTICE.

[Members are specially requested to keep the Hon. Secretary informed of any changes in their addresses, and those residing abroad should give early notification of coming home on leave.]

LIST OF AUTHORS

AND OTHER PERSONS REFERRED TO.

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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCVII.

Special General Meeting.

Chairman: Mr. D. Seth-Smith.

A Special General Meeting was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, at 6.15 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13, 1937, in accordance with notice which had been given.

An addition to the Rules was proposed by the Committee. This was approved in principle, and after verbal amendment was then adopted as follows:—

"Temporary Associates.

"V. Members of the British Ornithologists' Union who are ordinarily resident outside the British Isles, and ornithologists from the British Empire overseas or from foreign countries, may be admitted at the discretion of the Committee as Temporary Associates of the Club for the duration of any visit to the British Isles not exceeding one session. An entrance fee of five shillings shall be payable in respect of every such admission if the period exceeds three months. The privileges of Temporary Associates shall be limited to attendance at the ordinary meetings of the Club and the introduction of guests."

It was also agreed that the existing Rules V.–XI. should be re-numbered as VI.–XII.

Annual General Meeting.

Chairman : Mr. D. Seth-Smith.

This was held immediately after the Special General Meeting. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on October 14, 1936, were confirmed.

Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson then submitted his Report as Secretary. He said that the number of members remained the same, at 170. Six members had died :—Dr. L. Bureau, Mr. P. F. Bunyard, Sir Percy Cox, Lord Rothschild, Mr. C. G. Talbot Ponsonby, and Mr. J. I. S. Whitaker. Four members had resigned, and one had been removed from the list under Rule IV. Eleven new members had joined the Club. The usual meetings had been held : the total attendances were 548 (373 members, 175 others), or practically the same as in the previous year. The report was approved.

Major A. G. Lambart Sladen submitted his Report as Treasurer. The Financial Statement had been circulated, and called for no special comment: the balance in hand was greater by some £28 than at the beginning of the year. The report was approved.

Colonel R. Sparrow was elected Vice-Chairman in place of Mr. D. Seth-Smith, whose period of office terminated.

Dr. A. L. Thomson was re-elected Hon. Secretary.

Major A. G. L. Sladen was re-elected Hon. Treasurer.

Miss E. P. Leach and Mr. H. L. Popham were elected members of the Committee in place of Colonel A. E. Hamerton, whose period of office terminated, and of Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed, who resigned.

Committee, 1937–1938.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, *Chairman* (elected 1935).
Colonel R. Sparrow, *Vice-Chairman* (elected 1937).
Captain Claude H. B. Grant, *Editor* (elected 1935).
Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, *Hon. Secretary* (elected 1935).
Major A. G. Lambart Sladen, *Hon. Treasurer* (elected 1936).
Mr. J. H. McNeile (elected 1935).
Mr. W. B. Alexander (elected 1936).
Miss E. P. Leach (elected 1937).
Mr. H. Leyborne Popham (elected 1937).

Financial Statement for the 12 *months September* 1, 1936, *to August* 31, 1937.

12 m'ths ended Aug. 31, 1936. £ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	To Balance in Hand, September 1, 1936:—		
30 14 2	Cash at Bank, Current a/c	62 3 5	
251 18 2	Do. Deposit a/c	253 3 3	
400 0 0	„ 500 National Savings Certificates at cost, held by Bank.	400 0 0	
3 4	In Hands of Treasurer...	2 0 4	
			717 7 0
6 0 0	„ Entrance Fees of 10 New Subscribers	10 0 0	
176 8 0	„ Subscriptions—172 Members	180 12 0	
3 3 0	„ Subscriptions in advance ...	1 1 0	
	„ Subscriptions in arrear	1 1 0	
			192 14 0
31 6 9	„ Sales of 'Bulletin'.....		38 1 7
1 5 1	„ Bank Interest		1 5 2
£900 18 6			£949 7 9

12 m'ths ended Aug. 31, 1936. £ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	By Printing and Distribution of Publications and 'Bulletin'		
119 8 10	398/406.....		131 12 0
16 3 0	„ Hire of Lanterns at Meetings		16 5 0
5 5 8	„ H. B. Usher for compiling and arranging Index of 'Bulletin' B. O. C., 1936–37.		5 5 7
17 4 0	„ Miscellaneous Expenditure, including Audit Fee, Printing, Stationery, and Postages.		22 5 11
10 10 0	„ Zoological Society of London: Donation to 'Zoological Record' Fund.		
15 0 0	„ R. M. Lockley: Donation to Skokholm Migrant Trap.		
	„ Royal Geographical Society, Hire of Hall, Lanterns, etc.		8 7 6
	„ David Lack, Grant towards visit to Galapagos Islands...		20 0 0
	„ Balance in Hand, August 31, 1937:—		
62 3 5	Cash at Bank, Current a/c	90 7 1	
253 3 3	Do. Deposit a/c	254 8 5	
400 0 0	„ 500 National Savings Certificates at cost, held by Bank	400 0 0	
2 0 4	Cash in Hands of Treasurer.	16 3	
			745 11 9
£900 18 6			£949 7 9

A. G. LAMBART SLADEN, *Hon. Treasurer.*

We have examined the foregoing Statement with the Books and Vouchers of the British Ornithologists' Club for the year ended August 31, 1937, and certify it to be in accordance therewith. We have also verified the Cash at Bank and the holding of National Savings Certificates.

23 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C. 4.
September 8, 1937.

W. B. KEEN & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

Ordinary Meeting.

The four-hundred-and-second Ordinary Meeting of the Club was also held at the Rembrandt Hotel, on Wednesday, October 13, 1937.

Chairman : Colonel R. Sparrow.

Members present :—Miss C. M. Acland ; W. B. Alexander ; Dr. D. A. Bannerman ; Miss P. Barclay-Smith ; F. J. F. Barrington ; Miss M. G. S. Best ; Brig.-Gen. R. M. Betham ; Miss B. A. Carter ; Captain F. O. Cave ; Hon. G. L. Charteris ; Miss J. M. Ferrier ; J. Fisher ; Capt. C. H. B. Grant (*Editor*) ; Col. A. E. Hamerton ; B. Guy Harrison ; Mrs. C. Hodgkin ; P. A. D. Hollom ; E. Hopkinson ; Dr. K. Jordan ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; Miss E. P. Leach ; Dr. G. Carmichael Low ; Rear-Admiral H. Lynes ; T. H. McKittrick, Jr. ; C. W. Mackworth-Praed ; J. H. McNeile ; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr ; A. J. Marshall ; Dr. W. N. May ; Col. R. Meinertzhagen ; E. M. Nicholson ; C. Oldham ; B. B. Osmaston ; H. Leyborne Popham ; Dr. B. B. Rivière ; W. L. Sclater ; D. Seth-Smith ; Major M. H. Simonds ; C. R. Stonor ; Miss D. L. Taylor ; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson (*Hon. Sec.*) ; B. W. Tucker ; Miss E. L. Turner ; Mrs. H. W. Boyd Watt ; W. E. Wait ; H. F. Witherby ; C. G. M. de Worms.

Guest of the Club :—Dr. C. E. Hellmayr.

Guests :—Mrs. R. M. Betham ; Miss Lynes ; Mrs. Mack worth-Praed ; Mrs. P. Martin ; P. M. Meeson ; W. H Perrett ; Mrs. Sclater ; Miss B. N. Solly.

Members, 48 ; Guests, 8 ; Guest of the Club, 1.

Mr. H. F. Witherby made some remarks about birds he and Mrs. Witherby had observed in Corsica in June 1937. Mr. Witherby exhibited a juvenile specimen of the Corsican Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis whiteheadi*) which he had obtained, and made the following remarks :—

We had searched both at Vizzavona and Evisa for the Corsican or Whitehead's Nuthatch, but had failed to find it

until our last day in the mountains at Evisa. On this day we visited a hillside with smallish pines here and there, and my wife saw a Nuthatch acting like a Tit in the outer twigs of the top of one of the trees. We sat down to watch it and soon saw its mate. They were evidently collecting food for young, and we noticed that they were as often hopping about the small twigs of a pine like a Tit or sitting on a small bough, as they were climbing in a normal Nuthatch manner. This habit I afterwards found had been noted by others. The birds look small and pale, and the hen when flying at a little distance appears much like a Blue Tit. The cock is easily distinguished by his little black "beret." They collected food both from trunks and twigs of pines, and kept feeding the young which were in a hole in a very rotten pine stump snapped off at about 12 feet from the ground. While we were standing at the foot of the stump one of the old birds came to feed the young, and clung within a few feet of us, uttering a soft scolding note. This was the only sound we heard the birds make during our watch of several hours. At other times of year they appear to be noisy, and this silence was perhaps one reason why we had had such difficulty in finding the bird. The nesting-hole was not more than 9 feet from the ground, but the tree, which was about 6 inches in diameter, was so rotten that a slight push would have sent it over down the slope. We built up a platform of rocks behind it, and standing on them I was able to reach the nesting-hole and extract one of the young ones. Immediately the rest flew out and scattered, for they were full-grown.

The entrance-hole was small and round and the nest was about 4 inches down. The cavity was very roughly picked out, with a very uneven jagged surface, with apparently no attempt at shaping.

The young one, which I exhibit with adults, which Mr. Kinnear has kindly brought from the Museum collection, is exactly like an adult male, except that the black of the crown is not quite so dense and glossy and the upper parts and underparts are very slightly paler and the under tail-coverts are rather more buff than in the adult. This young one I carefully sexed as a male.

The only description of a juvenile *Sitta c. whiteheadi* I am aware of is that by Schiebel, who described a bird which he had sexed, evidently wrongly as a male, as being like the adult female. There is no doubt that Schiebel's bird was really a female and that the juvenile male and female are differentiated as in the adults. This, indeed, agrees with descriptions of the juveniles of *Sitta c. canadensis*.

I also exhibit from the Museum, specimens of adults of two allied forms, *Sitta c. canadensis* (N. America) and *Sitta c. villosa* (N. China). You will note that the latter is very near *S. c. whiteheadi*, being only a little more buff on the underparts, while *S. c. canadensis* is considerably more rufous-buff on the underparts.

I have also brought some specimens of Krüper's Nuthatch (*Sitta krüperi*) from Asia Minor, as that bird has recently been treated as a subspecies of *Sitta canadensis*. It is obviously nearly allied, but has such distinct differences that in my view it should be kept as a separate species.

We were certainly very fortunate in being able to get this young Whitehead's Nuthatch, as Mr. Jourdain informs me that he has never heard of a nest so low down. I certainly had no intention of emulating Mr. Jourdain's feats of some twenty-five years ago, when he climbed to nests in high dead pines in a dangerously rotten state (Ibis, 1911, pp. 440–445). If the nest had been at a normal height I should probably not have got this young bird, which I am presenting to the Museum.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain made the following remarks :—

Whitehead's Nuthatch was first discovered by John Whitehead on June 12, 1883. He only got a single specimen, and returned in 1884, when he succeeded in getting a small series of birds and found nine nests, but did not get to all of these, probably five or six only being taken. Of these one is in the British Museum, one at Tring, one in Germany, and one or more broken up and dispersed.

From 1884 to 1908 no nests were found and only five specimens obtained, but in 1908 and 1909 I took five nests with eggs and found others with young. No other nests have been found since that date till this year, when Mr. Witherby

found one with young and I saw three occupied nesting-sites, but did not attempt to reach them. It is remarkable that the nest and eggs or young have only been found by three collectors during the half century which has elapsed since its discovery. Full details of its nesting will be found in 'The Ibis,' 1885 and 1911.

Dr. G. Carmichael Low exhibited a Reeve, *Philomachus pugnax*, which had been sent to him by Mr. J. G. Marwick of Stromness, Orkney, for identification. The bird had been found at Voy, near Stromness, on September 25, 1937, with the outer part of its right wing torn completely off, having evidently hit a telegraph- or telephone-wire. It was so badly damaged that it had to be destroyed. The injury to the wing was severe, the fracture and tear taking place at the junction of the humerus with the radius and ulna, and it is interesting that with such an injury the bird should have survived and not died of hæmorrhage or shock.

Mr. H. F. Witherby exhibited, on behalf of Mr. J. A. Sidney Stendall, of the Belfast Museum, a male example of the Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans cantillans*) which had been found dead at the Maidens Lighthouse off Co. Antrim on June 13, 1937. Mr. Witherby remarked that the occurrence had already been recorded (Brit. Birds, 1937 (Sept.), p. 121, and Irish Nat. Journal, 1937, p. 279), but that he had obtained the editor's permission (according to rule) to exhibit the bird, as it was thought it would interest the members.

Mr. Witherby stated that this was the second recorded occurrence of the bird in Ireland, while four had been recorded for Scotland. All these birds had appeared in May and June except for the first Irish specimen in September 1933.

Mr. David Seth-Smith reported having seen two albino Willow-Warblers (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) at Whipsnade Park, Bedfordshire, on July 25, 1937. A keeper told him that he had seen three a few days before, evidently just having left the nest, as a parent bird was feeding them. They were quite fearless, and one could be observed at very close quarters as

it collected insects from the branches of Scots pine and larch. It was white with a yellowish tinge, especially on the upper wing-coverts. The eyes were deep pink and the legs and feet yellow.

Miss Phyllis Barclay-Smith gave a short account of her trip to Poland.

Dr. Hellmayr gave a short address on the birds in and around Vienna.

Dr. G. Carmichael Low sent the following note on the Red-legged Sandpiper of Bewick :—

Montagu (Supplement to the 'Ornithological Dictionary,' 1813) referred to and gave a description of the Red-legged Sandpiper of Bewick ('History of British Birds,' ii. 1804, p. 113), and though not naming it in the text did so in the catalogue at the end of the volume as *Tringa bewickii*.

Reference to Bewick's plate and figures of feathers at tail-piece, as Mr. Mathews has already pointed out, clearly show that the bird is not a Redshank. It is definitely a Reeve in summer plumage. The colour of the legs is wrong, but may have been described from a mounted specimen in which the legs had been painted red. The name *Tringa erythropus* used by Bewick cannot stand, being preoccupied by *Scolopax erythropus* (Pallas, Vroeg's Catalogue, 1764, p. 6) for the Spotted Redshank.

Tringa bewickii Montagu must therefore become a synonym of *Philomachus pugnax* (Linnæus).

Dr. David A. Bannerman sent the description of a new race of the Brown-rumped Swallow, for which he proposed the name

Pseudohirundo griseopyga liberiæ, subsp. nov.

Description. — Adult male and female. Differs from *P. g. griseopyga* in its much smaller size and in having a clear brown (not grey or greyish-brown) rump.

From the equally small Adamawan race, *P. g. gertrudis*, it may be distinguished by the clear brown rump.

From the Gabon race, *P. g. melbina*, with which it has usually been allied, by the browner, less sooty rump, and the paler head, which is not glossed with blue on the crown.

Distribution.—The Kru coast of Liberia.

Type.—Adult male. Nanna Kru, Liberia, Jan. 8, 1911. Collector: Willoughby P. Lowe. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1911.11.18.87.

Measurements.—Bill 6; wing 92–93; tail to outer feathers 74–76, to middle of fork 35; tarsus 11 mm.

Remarks.—The alliance of these Kru coast Swallows with the form inhabiting Gabon has never seemed to me reasonable, considering that a pale-rumped bird occurs in Nigeria and that in the whole expanse of West Africa the localities where the dark-rumped birds occur is separated by thousands of miles. Considering that neither the tone of the brown rump nor of the crown agree in Liberian and Gabon examples, it seems sensible to describe the Liberian bird as distinct. Now that I have come to deal with the Hirundinidæ in the fifth volume of my book the decision cannot be longer delayed, despite the need of additional material from both localities.

Mr. Hugh Whistler sent the following description of a new subspecies :—

Perdicula argoondah meinertzhageni, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from the typical race (type-locality "Dukhun") in being much paler in coloration. The barring on the lower plumage of the male is less heavy in appearance, as the black bars are individually narrower.

Distribution.—S.E. Punjab, United Provinces, Rajputana, Cutch, Central India, and the north of the Central Provinces about Jubbulpore.

Type.—Adult male. January 7, 1926, Nasirabad, Rajputana (Meinertzhagen collection).

Remarks.—Named after Colonel R. Meinertzhagen, D.S.O., who brought this new race to my notice and provided fresh material to substantiate it.

Col. Meinertzhagen sent the following descriptions of one new species and one new subspecies :—

Montifringilla theresæ, sp. nov.

Description.—A small Snow-Finch the size of a House-Sparrow. Pale hair-brown above, with darker brown centres to the feathers of the mantle. First three primaries brown with paler outer fringes, fourth primary with considerable white on the basal portion of the inner web, fifth and remaining primaries with almost the whole of the basal half creamy-white. Central rectrices brown, remainder with large dark brown spot at tip and white subapical band, basal portion a grey-brown in contrast to the true brown of the mantle. Chin and lores blackish, rest of underparts pale buff. There appears to be considerable variation in the shoulder of the wing, in some specimens being almost pure white and in others pale brown.

There is little difference in the sexes, the throat of the female being slightly less black, and there is no black round the eyes or lores.

Distribution.—This remarkable Finch is reminiscent of a dwarf *Montifringilla nivalis adamsi*, and we only met it at between 8500 and 9800 feet at Bamian and the Shibar Pass in northern Afghanistan.

Type.—Male. Shibar Pass, 9800 feet, northern Afghanistan, April 19, 1937. On breeding grounds. In my collection. Wing 93 mm.

Measurements.—Wings of five males 93–99 mm., and of two females 89 and 91 mm.

Remarks.—*M. n. adamsi* was breeding on the same ground.

Sylvia nana theresæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Colour above much darker and browner than *S. n. nana*, and below completely lacking the pale isabelline wash, this being replaced by an ash-grey wash.

Distribution.—Rohri and Sukkur in Sind in January and February.

Type.—Male. Rohri, Sind. January 25, 1937. Collected by Mr. A. Jones. In my collection. Wing 59 mm.

Measurements.—Wings of two males 59, and of two females 56 and 59 mm.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following notes on the genus *Fregetta* Bp., 1855 :—

In ' Novitates Zoologicæ,' vol. xxxix. p. 34, I published an article on the genus *Fregetta*. At that time a bird collected by Gould, presumably about 1844, was considered to be the type of *Fregetta*. Another example, collected by Macgillivray in 1853, has been in the British Museum at least since 1855. These birds, labelled "*leucogaster*," have since proved not to be that bird, but another quite distinct species. This was pointed out in the Bull. B. O. C. in June last, p. 144, when Bonaparte's bird collected by Macgillivray was renamed. In the July number of ' The Ibis,' p. 672, I raised the question of the validity of *Fregetta* versus *Fregata*.

The diagnosis of the genus *Fregetta* Bp. 1855 fits the above birds, wrongly considered *leucogaster*, and does not fit the type of *leucogaster*. This latter type has been sent over from Philadelphia in middle June of this year, so these changes became necessary only after examination of the type. All work founded on a wrong basis must be eliminated. The reason why the bird in the British Museum was considered to be Gould's type of *T. leucogaster* was the fact that it was collected by Captain Grey in lat. 35° 1′ S., long. 6° 15′ E., whereas the real type was collected by the same man in lat. 36° S., long 6° 47′ E. Both birds have the wide white fringes to the feathers on the back. As *Cymodroma*, 1884, is a substitute name for *Fregetta* Bp., not *Fregata*, it carries the same genotype. Fixing the type of *Fregetta* Bp. is important, because the same type must belong to *Cymodroma*. So we have the following facts :

When Bonaparte was working in 1855 his *Thalassidroma oceanica* equalled *Procellaria grallaria* Vieillot ; his *Fregetta leucogaster* equalled *Fregodroma leucothysanus*, and his *Fregetta melanogaster* was the same as Gould's. This being admitted, we have Bonaparte designating as type of his new genus *F. leucogaster*, and placing in this genus the bird "which differs hardly at all," viz., *F. melanogaster*. These were, Bonaparte continued, "quite distinct from my *Thalassidroma oceanica*."

One school of thought maintains that the designated type is the bird named even if wrongly labelled ; another school says that as you can only diagnose a genus on specimens, figures, or descriptions, the type is the species on which the diagnosis was drawn.

It is also claimed that the first reviser has the right to say which of the above is to be accepted.

As first reviser I designate as type of *Fregetta* Bp., 1855, *Fregetta leucogaster* Bp., not Gould, equals *Fregodroma leucothysanus* Mathews, 1937, the species used by Bonaparte when he diagnosed his new genus. This last species is also the type of *Cymodroma* Ridgway, a substitute name for *Fregetta* Bp., not *Fregata* ; both these latter names, in 1884, were considered identical. In 1876 Salvin corrected *Fregetta* Bp. to *Fregata*.

Fregetta Bp., 1855, is preoccupied by *Fregata* Lacepède, 1799, spelt *Fregatta* Stephens, 1826, both names having the same derivation and meaning. One named from the Frigate Bird, La Frégate or [*Sula*] *fregata* Brisson, vol. vi. 1760, p. 506, the other from the Frigate Petrel, *Procellaria fregata* L.

In 1851 Lawrence (in Ann. Lyceum Nat. Hist. New York, vol. v. pt. 2, for May, p. 117) wrote *Thalassidroma fregetta* for Linné's bird, the quotation being "*Thalassidroma fregetta* (Sol.) Khul (Sic) Monogr." [Kuhl wrote *fregatta* and Solander wrote *fregata*.] So the derivation of Bonaparte's *Fregetta* is taken from Lawrence's misspelling of Kuhl's name ; both must be corrected to *Fregata*. It was a practice amongst some writers to make a tautonym. Bonaparte made *Bulweria* for *Procellaria bulweri* ; *Cookilaria* for *Procellaria cookii* ; etc., etc. When he came to the Frigate Petrel, the *Procellaria fregetta* (Law.), he introduced *Fregetta*, Lawrence's misspelling.

After a study of the above items we have in *Fregetta* Bp. a distinct case of a *lapsus calami* or typographical error for *Fregata* ; and *Fregetta* Bp., 1855, should be corrected to *Fregata*, as Salvin did in 1876.

Bonaparte's name being preoccupied we must use the next name, which is *Cymodroma*, introduced to replace Bonaparte's name, for the reasons given above. Salvin, in the 'Catalogue of Birds," 1896, also used *Cymodroma*.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews also sent the following notes on some overlooked generic names :—

In the ' Magazine of Natural History and Journal of Zoology, etc.,' conducted by J. C. Loudon, vol. vii. no. 43, p. 593, for November 1834, S. D. W.[ood] introduced the new genus *Densirostra* for the Coalhood or Bullfinch alone, which he called *Densirostra atricapilla*. This is a substitute name for *Loxia pyrrhula* L. The rejection of the Brissonian genera by the International Zoological Congress at Padua brings this genus name forward.

In the ' Ornithological Guide,' 1836 (June ?), C. T. Wood uses *Densirostra* for *enucleata*, and calls the Coalhood *Pirula modularis*. In this ' Guide ' Wood introduced the following genera :—On p. 183 *Martula*, type, by present designation, *Martula fenestra=Hirundo urbica* L. On p. 189 *Muscicula* is introduced for the Pied Flycatcher alone ; on p. 201 *Maridus* is used for " Bihorea de Cayenne " of Daubenton, which Wood calls *Maridus bahamensis*, and this is the type of the genus *Maridus* by present designation ; on p. 203 *Longirostra*, type *Scolopax grisea* Gmelin (in 'Analyst,' no. 15, April 1836, p. 119, *Longirostris* is made a substitute name for *Macroramfus*) ; on p. 211 *Penguina* is introduced for the Great Auk alone (this name is quite distinct from, but is preoccupied by, *Penguinus* Brünnich).

In 'Analyst,' vol. iii. no. 13, October 1835, S. D. W.[ood] introduced the genus *Rufipes*, on p. 33, for the Red-legged Partridge, *Rufipes vulgaris*, the *Tetrao rufus* L., and on p. 206 (January 1836) he confirms this on the Guernsey Partridge of Latham, which he called *Rufipes picta*.

Also in the ' Analyst,' vol. iii. 1836, p. 211, Wood introduced *Sterna elegans* ; this preoccupies the same combination by Gambel, 1848. For the bird described in the ' Catalogue of Birds,' vol. xxv. 1896, p. 84, I propose the name *Thalasseus ichla*.

Dr. Finn Salomonsen sent the following notes on the Philippine Paradise Flycatchers :—

The Flycatchers belonging to the genera *Xeocephus* Bp. (*Zeocephus*) and *Neoxeocephus* McGregor, inhabit the Philippines

and the Talaut Islands. Even in the most recent handbooks on the birds of the Philippines these two genera are maintained; but in my opinion there is no reason to separate them from the widespread genus *Terpsiphone* or *Tchitrea* (of the two generic names for the Paradise Flycatchers *Terpsiphone* appears to be the right one; *cf.* Stejneger, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. vol. xxxvii. 1910, p. 652). The Philippine Paradise Flycatchers have the bill and the bristles around it exactly formed as in the East Asiatic *Terpsiphone*; in structure they are almost identical with the strong-billed *T. paradisi borneensis* (Hart.). Bill in *T. p. borneensis* 13–15·5 mm., in *Xeocephus rufus* 14–16 mm. Also the structure of the wing is exactly as in *T. borneensis*: first primary is short, hardly 20 mm. longer than primary coverts; the second primary slightly shorter than secondaries; the third primary between sixth and seventh in length, and the fourth between fifth and sixth, the fifth being the longest. The fleshy blue eye-wattle in the Philippine Paradise Flycatcher varies very much in size, being large in *Xeocephus*, narrow in *Neoxeocephus*. A similar variation takes place among the members of the genus *Terpsiphone*, some having no wattle at all, some having small wattles, and others having large wattles which in certain forms of *T. paradisi* and *T. atrocaudata* are as big as in *Xeocephus*. I draw attention to the fact that *T. periophthalmica*, now regarded as a subspecies of the Japanese Paradise Flycatcher (*T. atrocaudata*) (*cf.* 'A Hand-list of the Japanese Birds,' edited by N. Kuroda and others, 1932, p. 46) was described as a new genus, *Callæops* O.-Grant, among other characters based on the large wattle. The coloration of the Philippine Paradise Flycatchers does not differ from that in *Terpsiphone*. Uniform blue forms, as *Neoxeocephus cyanescens*, are found in *Terpsiphone* too, for instance, the mut. *bedfordi* in the African *T. ignea*. Uniform red forms, as *Xeocephus rufus*, are not found in *Terpsiphone*, but some species are almost red, and the colour of *T. nigriceps* is almost identical with that of *X. rufus*. It is interesting that the coloration of *N. cyanescens* is due to bluish melanin (eumelanin) only, whereas in *X. rufus* it is due to red melanin (phæomelanin) only, as we

know these two pigments to replace each other in many species of *Terpsiphone*; in *T. tricolor neumanni* specimens with bluish and others with reddish underside are mixed together. Also in the form and size of the crest and the length of the tail-feathers the Philippine Paradise Flycatchers vary as much as the members of *Terpsiphone*. The Philippine Paradise Flycatchers differ from *Terpsiphone* neither in structure nor in colour, and the maintenance of the genera *Xeocephus* and *Neoxeocephus* cannot be justified. It is noticeable that McGregor, the describer of *Neoxeocephus*, says: "My opinion is that both *Callæops* and *Xeocephus* should be considered as no more than subgenera of *Terpsiphone*" (Philipp. Journ. Sci. vol. xviii. 1921, p. 79). Notwithstanding the question whether *Xeocephus* has to be incorporated in *Terpsiphone* or not, the name of *Xeocephus rufus* has to be changed. Swainson described a *Muscipeta rufa* (in Nat. Hist. Birds West Africa, 1837, vol. ii. p. 60), which is a synonym of the Madagascan *T. mutata* (*cf.* Salomonsen, Bull. B. O. C. vol. liii. 1933, p. 121). This name was not much used, but some students, for instance, E. T. Layard ('Birds South Africa,' 1867, p. 145), speak about *Tchitrea rufa* Sw. The bird now known as *Xeocephus rufus* was described by Gray in Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. vol. xi. 1843, p. 371, under the name *Tchitrea rufa*. This, of course, is preoccupied by *T. rufa* Swainson, 1837, and as substitute for *T. rufa* Gray, 1843, I propose

Terpsiphone unirufa, nom. nov.

The genus *Terpsiphone* is represented by the following forms in the Philippine Islands:—

(1) *Terpsiphone cyanescens* Sh.): Palawan.

(2) *Terpsiphone cinnamomea unirufa* Sal.: Northern islands; specimens in British Museum) examined from Luzon, Marinduque, Mindoro, Negros, Panay. Length of central tail-feathers in adult males 120–173 mm.

(3) *Terpsiphone cinnamomea cinnamomea* (Sharpe): southern islands; specimens (in British Museum) examined from Mindanao and Basilan. Length of central tail-feathers

in adult males 90–100 mm. Not so deep rufous as *T. c. unirufa*, and abdomen usually (not always) paler creamy; but the difference in colour is not very distinct.

(4) *Terpsiphone cinnamomea talautensis* (Meyer & Wiglesworth): Talaut Islands (Kabruang, Salibabu, Karkellang). Tail as in *T. c. cinnamomea*, but colour deep rufous as in *T. c. unirufa*. Doubtfully distinct from *T. c. cinnamomea*. Specimens (in British Museum) examined from Karkellang; other specimens (co-types) kindly lent me by Dr. W. Meise, Dresden.

The Marquess Hachisuka sent the following note on the famous painting of Edwards's Dodo :—

Of all the contemporary drawings of the Dodo (*Raphus cucullatus*), that of Edwards, painted by R. Savery in 1759 and preserved in the British Museum (Natural History), is the most famous. Most of the later Dodo drawings are copies of this particular picture. It represents a female in the fat form, with two distinct rugosities over the upper mandible. The other birds represented in this painting are carefully executed and their species may be identified, although to my knowledge it has never been attempted. Due to my absence from London my observations are limited to the reproductions.

On the right top corner is perched a blue-and-yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*); on the left may be identified *Ara chloroptera*; both are well-known species of Macaws from South America. The pair of ducks below the red Macaw are Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*); another duck, which appears on the right lower corner is a Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*). There is a dark-coloured Heron on either side of the Dodo; since their bodies are entirely hidden, I am unable to identify the species. The last bird, which stands above the Wigeon, is the subject of this discussion.

The earliest reproduction of this painting was made in 1848 by H. E. Strickland, and printed in his book, 'The Dodo and Its Kindred,' and although uncoloured it shows many details now almost invisible in the original, especially of the objects in the background.

The second copy, which is now preserved in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, was painted by Mrs. Louisa Gunther about 1877, and was intended as a restoration of the original painting, which had become blackened with age. The colouring of the Oxford Dodo seems far too brown; originally Edwards's Dodo must have looked much the same as the one reproduced in colour by Dr. C. A. Wood in Ibis, 1927, pl. xviii., especially in the pearl-grey colour of the breast and abdomen, and in the upper part of the tarsus, which is of a blackish colour, feathered like another of Savery's pictures of the Dodo now in the Bellvedere at Vienna. At present the Edwards and Oxford Dodo paintings are reproduced in colour as postcards and sold at both Museums. Another actual-size copy of Edwards's Dodo was made in oil by Keulemans. The exact date is unknown, but it was presumably made about the same time as the Oxford Dodo at the request of G D Rowley of Brighton, the editor of 'Ornithological Miscellany,' who wrote about the Dodo and other extinct birds between 1876–1878, and his journal was exclusively illustrated by Keulemans. The Keulemans's Dodo painting remained in the possession of Rowley's family until 1934, when his collection, including the two Great Auks and six eggs, along with Dodo bones, was sold at Stevens's (Jourdain, Ibis, 1935, p. 246). I acquired this painting and the bones, which are now in Tokyo. It is a very true copy.

The next copy in actual size was made by Mr H Grönvold for the Smithsonian Institution, where it now hangs. I have only seen the photographic reproduction, so I am unable to criticize it.

This painting shows a long-billed brown bird on the ground behind the Wigeon, at the shore of the lake, carrying a toad in its beak. One might believe this to be a Kiwi of New Zealand, but it cannot be so because the first Kiwi specimen to be forwarded to Europe was *Apteryx australis*, obtained by Capt. Barclay of the ship 'Providence' about 1813, more than fifty years later than the date when Savery made his Dodo painting in Holland. Also, it cannot be the Hammerhead of Africa, because Gmelin described *Scopus umbretta* in 1789, exactly thirty years after the drawing was made Therefore

I do not hesitate to identify this bird as *Aphanapteryx bonasia*, the Flightless Red Land-Rail, which existed once in Mauritius, and was brought over to Europe during the period when a number of Dodos reached several countries. My identification is unmistakable because of the slightly decurved bill and the elongated feather on the head and nape. The Oxford drawing shows clearly that the bird has no wings. We find an excellent coloured drawing of *Aphanapteryx* in Ibis, 1869, pl. vii., accompanied by an article written by Milne-Edwardes ; the restoration of the bird also appears in Lord Rothschild's 'Extinct Birds,' pl. xxix.

The first picture of *Aphanapteryx* was made by Van den Broecke, who visited Mauritius in 1617 and published the account and picture in 1646. The second is a painting on vellum preserved in the library founded by Emperor Francis I. of Austria. The bird which was used as a model for this picture was alive in the imperial menagerie which Rudolph II. and his father, Maximillian II., kept from 1545 to 1618. The third is the one in Edwards's Dodo painting in the British Museum, which constitutes the second example of the bird brought alive to Europe (Holland), and the most recent living record. Therefore *Aphanapteryx bonasia* existed to our knowledge between 1617 to 1759, a period of a little less than one century and a half before it became extinct.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following three notes :—

(1) On the Status of *Caprimulgus clarus* Reichenow, and the Races of *Scotornis climacurus* (Vieillot), in Eastern Africa.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 253, places *C. clarus* as a race of *C. fossii*.

In 1922, in Nov. Zool. xxix. pp. 85–86, van Someren points out that two species "occur together throughout Uganda and East Africa," and considers *C. clarus* to be a species with one race, *C. c. apatelius*. Hartert, in the same volume, p. 402, considers that *C. apatelius* is a race of *C. fossii*, and Friedmann, Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1930, p. 310, severely

criticizes van Someren and proceeds to consider the matter one of some evolutionary interest. Our careful and critical examination of a good series of specimens, including the type of *Caprimulgus clarus* Reichenow, most kindly loaned to us by Dr. Stresemann, and six specimens of *Scotornis climacurus sclateri*, kindly loaned to us by Lieut.-Col. Stoneham, confirms van Someren's conclusions that there are two distinct species occurring together in eastern Africa.

We had first of all agreed with Sclater, Friedmann, and others, as specimens in the British Museum from Bukoba (the type-locality of *C. clarus*) agree perfectly with typical *C. fossii* from both west and east of this locality. Moreover, we had placed *C. clarus* as a synonym of *C. fossii*. There were, however, specimens from Kampala, Entebbe, Kisumu, and Mkomasi in the British Museum which did not agree with the other specimens of *C. fossii*, having a different appearance, lengthened central tail-feathers, and graduated tails. These puzzled us, and so to be sure that the British Museum specimens from Bukoba were *C. clarus* we sent for the type. This type does not agree at all with these British Museum specimens from Bukoba, but agreed perfectly with the specimens from Entebbe, Kisumu, and Mkomasi (mentioned above), and with a series of *C. apatelius* from Abyssinia and the southern Sudan. It is now clear that we have before us two distinct species from Bukoba. A comparison of the plate i. in Von Der Decken's 'Reisen,' vol. iv. 1870, and the original description in Orn. West Afr. 1857, p. 23, with specimens from West Africa shows that it is a square-tailed *Caprimulgus* and not a graduated tailed *Scotornis*, both of which have the white on the outer webs of the outermost tail-feather extending to the base. Therefore *C. clarus* has nothing to do with *C. fossii*, but has all the characters of a *Scotornis*, and it is to that genus that we propose to attach it, making it a race of *C. climacurus* as follows :—

Scotornis climacurus nigricans Salvad.

Scotornis nigricans Salvadori, Atti. Soc. Ital. Milano, xi. 1868, p. 449 : White Nile, Sudan.

General colour sandy-buff to dark grey, tail in male greatly elongated. Wing 139–154 mm.

Distribution.—Western Sudan (Darfur and Kordofan) to eastern Sudan (White and Blue Niles, Sobat, Baro), and north-western Abyssinia (Lake Tana).

Scotornis climacurus clarus Reichw.

Caprimulgus clarus Reichenow, J. f. O. 1892, p. 29: Bukoba, north-western Tanganyika Territory; of which *Caprimulgus apatelius* Neumann, O. M., xii. 1904, p. 143: Lake Abaya, south-western Abyssinia, is a synonym.

General colour paler, more sandy, and central tail-feathers in male only slightly elongated. Wing 138–159 mm.

Distribution.—British Somaliland and eastern and southern Abyssinia, to south-eastern Sudan, Kenya Colony, north-eastern (as far as Kitgum) and southern Uganda (Kampala and Entebbe), and northern Tanganyika Territory (Bukoba, Bukoba District, and Mkomasi, Tanga District).

Scotornis climacurus sclateri Bates.

Caprimulgus climacurus sclateri Bates, Ibis, 1927, p. 20: Ngaundere, North Cameroons.

General colour tawny-buff to chestnut, tail in male greatly elongated. Wing 134–149 mm.

Distribution.—Nigeria to the south-western Sudan, as far east as Nimule on the Nile, northern Belgian Congo, and western Uganda (Kitgum).

Both *S. c. sclateri* and *S. c. clarus* meet at Kitgum in northern Uganda, as shown by two specimens in the British Museum Collection, i.e., *S. c. sclateri*, adult male, Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1916.12.1.327, and *S. c. clarus*, adult female, Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1916.12.1.328.

Bates, Ibis, 1927, p. 30, is of the opinion that in West Africa a movement takes place from the drier to the wetter zones, and Stoneham, Ibis, 1926, p. 84, records a movement in northern Uganda in the month of March.

(2) On *Caprimulgus nauta* Lönnberg, Orn. Monatsb. xxiii. 1915, p. 39: at sea near Aden.

Through the very great kindness of Count Gyldenstolpe we have been privileged to examine two of the four specimens on which this name was founded. These two specimens

agree perfectly with the series in the British Museum Collection of *Caprimulgus europæus unwini* Hume, of which *Caprimulgus nauta* Lönnberg now becomes a synonym.

(3) On the type-locality of *Micropus affinis abessynicus* (Streubel), Isis, col. 354, 1848.

Streubel gives Abyssinia, and this has been followed by all authors. He founded his name on a specimen, or specimens, collected by Hemprich and Ehrenberg. These travellers visited Massawa (collecting specimens at Eylet and Arkiko near Massawa) in the spring of 1825, with the intention of travelling in Abyssinia, but Hemprich died at Massawa in June of that year and Ehrenberg started for home *via* Jidda in July. In their day Abyssinia covered the area now known as Eritrea. The correct type-locality of *Micropus affinis abessynicus* Streubel should therefore be: Near Massawa, Eritrea.

IXth International Ornithological Congress: Rouen, 1938.

President: Professor A. Ghigi.
Secretary: Monsieur J. Delacour.

Provisional Programme.

Monday, 9 May:

9.00–12.00. Registration of members of Congress at the Secretariat.
11.00. Meeting of the International Ornithological Committee.
14.30. Opening of the Congress at Town Hall.
17.00. Reception at Town Hall.
18.00. Excursion: La Corniche de Rouen. Bonsecrours.

Tuesday, 10 May:

10.00. Presidential Address.
10.40–12.30. General Meeting.
14.00–17.00. Meetings of Sections.
17.00–18.30. Visit to the Natural History Museum.
21.00. Soirée at Theatre des Arts.

Wednesday, 11 May.

10.00–12.30. Meetings of Sections.

14.00. Excursion to Clères.

Thursday, 12 May :

9.00. Long Excursion in the Valley of the Seine. Lunch at Caudebec-en-Caux. Forest of Bortonne, Mauny, Roches d'Orival.

20.00. Banquet.

Friday, 13 May :

10.00–12.30. Meetings of Sections.

14.00–17.30. „ „ „

20.30. Meeting of the International Ornithological Committee.

21.30. General Meeting in the Town Hall. Close of the Congress.

PARIS.

Saturday and Sunday, 14 and 15 May.—Visit and reception at the Museum and to establishments associated therewith.

Monday to Thursday, 16 to 19 May.—Long Excursion to the Carmargue.

N.B.—Visits to Monuments and Museums in Rouen, conducted by representatives of scientific and art societies, will be organized during the hours not occupied by the Meetings and Excursions of the Congress.

SECTIONS.

The Sections will be as follows :—

1st Section : Taxonomy and Zoo-Geography.

2nd Section : Anatomy, Physiology, Palæontology, and Embryology.

3rd Section : Biology (Ethology, Ecology, Migration, Oology, etc.).

4th Section : Applied Ornithology (Economic Ornithology, Taxidermy, Observations and Experiments on Birds in captivity).

Conforming with the desire of the Permanent International Ornithological Committee expressed at the last Congress, it is proposed that questions concerning the Protection of Birds be dealt with during the Meetings of the International Committee for Bird Preservation which will take place in Rouen immediately before the opening of the Congress, on 6 and 7 May, 1938.

The Resolutions adopted and the proposals put forward will then be presented for the approval of the Congress at the final General Meeting.

Communications.

Those who wish to read papers must send intimation to the Secretary by 31 January, 1938, giving the following information :—

(1) Title of paper, with number of typed pages and approximate time required.
(2) Section for which it is intended.
(3) Whether illustrated by lantern-slides, films, or photographs and prints. (Size of lantern-slides must be given and full details of film, *i. e.*, whether inflammable or non-inflammable, size and length.) An epidiascope will be provided.

All manuscript must be handed in before the close of the Congress, or it will not be included in the Proceedings.

Membership.

In addition to representatives of Governments, Museums, Scientific Societies, etc., all persons interested in Ornithology will be welcome as members of the Congress. The fee for each member is £1 ; if accompanied by a lady 10/- extra.

Names and addresses of those wishing to become members of the Congress should be sent to the Secretary as early as possible in order to receive the final programme with full information concerning hotels, excursions, etc.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary .—

Monsieur Jean Delacour,
Chateau de Clères, Clères,
Seine Inférieure, France.

1937
CHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCVIII.

The four-hundred-and-third Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, November 10, 1937.

Chairman : Mr. G. M. Mathews.

Members present :—Mrs. R. G. Barnes ; F. J. F. Barrington ; Miss B. A. Carter ; Hon. G. L. Charteris ; H. P. O. Cleave ; J. Fisher ; H. A. Gilbert ; Miss Eva Godman ; Capt. C. H. B. Grant (*Editor*); Col. A. E. Hamerton ; B. Guy Harrison ; Dr. J. M. Harrison ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; N. B. Kinnear ; Miss E. P. Leach ; Dr. N. S. Lucas ; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath ; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr ; J. G. Mavrogordato ; Col. R. Meinertzhagen ; C. Oldham ; B. B. Osmaston ; W. L. Sclater ; D. Seth-Smith ; C. F. M. Swynnerton ; The Marquess of Tavistock ; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson (*Hon. Sec.*) ; B. W. Tucker ; Mrs. W. Boyd Watt ; H. Whistler ; C. M. N. White ; H. F. Witherby ; C. G. M. de Worms.

Guests of the Club :—Professor F. S. Bodenheimer ; H. St. J. B. Philby.

Guests :—Miss E. H. H. Carter ; Mrs. M. V. Gilbert ; P. H. Martin ; Miss Van Oostveen ; Mrs. Philby.

Members 34 ; Guests 5 ; Guests of the Club 2.

Chairman's Address.

Since the last Annual Address the British Ornithologists' Union has lost by death one Honorary Member, Dr. Louis Bureau; one Foreign Member, R. C. McGregor; one Honorary Lady Member, the Duchess of Bedford; and the following Ordinary Members, R. Brash, N. G. Brownrigg, P. F. Bunyard, Sir Percy Cox, the Duke Gandolfi, Lord Rothschild, C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby, and M. Wenner; while abroad Dr. R. C. E. G. J. Baron Snouckaert van Schauburg has died.

The 'British Birds' ringing scheme, which has been maintained since 1909 by the Editor of that journal, with the help of many others, has been transferred to the Council of the British Trust for Ornithology, with its headquarters in the Bird Room at the British Museum (Natural History). All the rings will be inscribed "British Museum Nat. Hist. London," with the permission of the Trustees of that Museum.

Regional Review (*October* 1936 *to October* 1937).

Arctic.

Mr. E. G. Bird has returned from N.E. Greenland, leaving his brother Mr. C. G. Bird to spend a second winter there.

Antarctic.

The British Grahamland Expedition returned to England this summer after an absence of nearly three years.

Europe.

Mr. H. F. Witherby and the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain visited Corsica during the spring, and Mr. Witherby was able to procure a juvenile male specimen of *Sitta canadensis whiteheadi*, thereby proving that the juveniles (like the adults) are different.

Major W. M. Congreve collected in the vicinity of Gibraltar with Major H. C. Bridges, who is now resident there. He was able to travel freely, except in one valley (Vega de la Janda), which was closed by the authorities.

Mr. H. Whistler carried out a tour of Poland in May.

Mr. G. Tomkinson collected in Hungary this year.

Miss C. M. Acland visited Poland.

Mr. B. W. Tucker and Mr. L. S. V. Venables spent some time in East Finmark and Mr. B. G. Harrison also collected in Northern Norway.

Lt.-Col. R. F. Meiklejohn, Mr. H. J. R. Pease, and Miss Barclay returned to their old hunting-ground in Crete and also visited Greece.

Mr. J. H. McNeile again returned to Estonia, and subsequently went to Northern Sweden.

Mr. C. H. Wells and Dr. N. May went to Northern Finland.

Asia.

Col. R. Meinertzhagen has returned after a successful collecting tour in India and Afghanistan.

Mr. H. St. J. B. Philby is home from Arabia and Mr. G. L. Bates continues his work on the former's collections from that country.

Africa.

Rear-Admiral H. Lynes has returned from South Africa after a successful trip.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst and Mr. H. Whistler paid a short visit to the Hauts Plateau of western Algeria last month.

Messrs. J. L. Chaworth Musters and P. T. Boughton Leigh made a trip to the High Atlas, now opened up by means of the new motor-road, and were successful in obtaining specimens of the very little known *Rhodopechys s. aliena*, hitherto known only from one specimen. The birds obtained by them have been placed in the British Museum (Natural History).

Mr. R. H. Greaves continues his researches on Egyptian birds ; Mr. R. Shuel continues his researches on the breeding of Nigerian birds, and Dr. W. Serle is also studying breeding questions in the same country.

South America.

Mr. A. R. G. Morrison has gone to Peru, where he plans to stay for nearly a year.

Mr. D. Lack, with Mr. L. S. V. Venables, plans to visit the Galapagos Islands, with the financial assistance of various societies, the main object being an intensive study of the Geospizidæ (Ground-Finches), which are peculiar to these islands.

Miscellaneous.

Sir C. F. Belcher has left Trinidad and had taken up residence in Kenya Colony.

Literature.

Band 2 of Dr. F. Groebbel's monumental work ' Der Vogel,' dealing largely with sex and reproduction, has recently been published.

An important work on Palæarctic birds entitled ' Handbuch der Deutschen Vogelkunde.—Bd. 1. Passeres,' by G. Niethammer, has appeared, while the Club van Nederlandsche Vogelkundigen has produced the first volume of a work on Dutch birds entitled ' De Nederlandsche Vogels Determineerlijst.'

Messrs. E. M. Nicholson and L. Koch have given us something new, as far as England is concerned, in the form of a second volume dealing with bird-song, accompanied by gramophone records which render the songs of a number of British birds.

Mr. Ludlow Griscom has published a much needed revision of the Crossbills in the Proc. Boston Soc. N. H. vol. xli. no. 5.

Dr. F. Steinbacher has completed Heft 5 of the Erganzungsband to Dr. Hartert's ' Die Vögel der palaärktischen Fauna.'

Volume ii. of Mr. N. Kuroda's ' Birds of the Island of Java ' has been published.

A report on the ornithological results of the American Museum's 1933–34 Papuan Expedition has been published by Dr. E. Mayr and Mr. A. L. Rand in the Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. vol. lxxiii.

An important paper dealing with the breeding biology of the Hornbills by Mr. R. E. Moreau appeared in the Journ. E. Africa and Uganda N. H. Soc. vol. xiii. nos. 1 & 2.

Capt. C. D. Priest has published vol. iv. of his ' Birds of Southern Rhodesia.'

Mr. J. T. Zimmer continues his " Studies of Peruvian Birds " in Amer. Mus. Novit. nos. xxii.–xxvi.

Dr. J. P. Chapin discovered a new Peacock-like bird from the Belgian Congo, which he described under the name *Afropavo congensis* in the Rev. Zool. et Bot. Africaines, vol. xxix. fasc. 1.

Dr. E. L. Gill has given us a useful book with the title ' A First Guide to South African Birds.'

An interesting work, ' Bird Behaviour,' dealing chiefly with the Black-headed Gull, has been written by Mr. F. B. Kirkman.

Mr. A. C. Bent has added yet another volume to his ' Life-Histories of North American Birds. Order Falconiformes.'—Pt. 1. Bull. 167, U.S. Nat. Mus.

A *de luxe* edition of a work on the Dodo and other extinct birds of the Mascarene Islands is in course of preparation by the Marquess Hachisuka.

The third volume of Mr. J. L. Peter's ' Check-List of Birds of the World ' has been published.

An interesting booklet on the ' Lore of the Lyre-Bird ' has been written by Mr. A. Pratt.

Dr. E. Stresemann, Dr. W. Meise, and Mr. M. Schönwetter have written an important paper on the Birds of Kansu and Kukunor collected by Walter Beick, which occupies a whole number of the J. f. O. (vol. lxxxv. Heft 3).

Messrs. H. Whistler and N. B. Kinnear have continued their work on the Vernay Scientific Survey of the E. Ghats in Journ. Bombay N. H. Soc. vol. xxix.

As before, I wish to thank the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain for looking over the above and making some additions.

Mr. H. St. J. B. Philby gave the following very interesting talk on Arabia, and showed slides :—

A representative selection of the birds collected by me during my journey of last year in the south-west portion of Arabia between Mecca and the Hadhramaut has been brought here for you to see. My object is to speak to you not so much about the birds themselves as about the various types of country in which they are found. And some of the country, as you will see from the slides, is of a type not ordinarily associated with Arabia. Roughly speaking, the Yaman has Ethiopian affinities, as has long been recognized by those who have collected or studied the birds and other fauna of that mountainous tract. The political boundary between the Yaman and Sa'udi Arabia does not, however, follow a zoogeographical line. The southern part of the latter

country—a strip 100 miles long from north to south, and, say, 60 or 70 miles wide—forms naturally a part of the Yaman rather than of Sa'udi Arabia, and it was with this part of the Ethiopian zone that I was concerned. In it, beyond the wide coastal plain of the Tihama, is a tract of great mountains of an elevation varying from 5000 to 8000 feet, traversed by splendid valleys with perennial streams—I saw six such "rivers," and there may be others—and covered from floor to summit with dense vegetation of a tropical or sub-tropical character. In some parts there are great park-like tracts of forest trees. In others the mountain sides, supporting a surprisingly large population, are laboriously terraced for the cultivation of coffee, *Katha edulis*, bananas, papayas, and other crops, including wheat, barley, and millet. In this country occur such birds as the Hammerhead, Hornbill, Paradise Flycatcher, Klaas's Cuckoo, two Doves of Abyssinian affinities, the beautiful long-tailed Abyssinian Roller, and others. Roughly speaking, the northern limit of this area is latitude $19\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$. Its eastern limit is very sharply marked by the splendid escarpment of the Sirat, which forms the backbone of Arabia at an average elevation of 9000 feet.

Beyond this escarpment eastwards lies the true Arabia, which from the zoogeographical standpoint might be labelled, it has been suggested, the Eremian region, as its affinities are with the Sahara on one side and the central Asian deserts on the other. The western part of this region forms a high plateau of rough, rather arid, mountainous country, descending gradually to an elevation of 6000 feet along the edge of the great, typical desert of Rub' al Khali. The southern part of the plateau is of sandstone overlying igneous rocks, and covered in parts by caps of basalt about 300 feet thick. Further north the igneous rocks have no sandstone covering, and, in the mountains about Abha, are thickly covered with juniper forest. Here I found the Magpie, as also Bury's linnet-like bird *P. yemenensis*, and the new Partridge (*A. g. philbyi*). The last was in great numbers, and seems, as far as I can say from observation, wholly confined to the eastern side of the escarpment and the plateau—from 9000 to 4000 feet.

As the valleys of the plateau splay out into the desert we find a great deal of desert jungle—well-grown trees of

acacia, jujube, etc. It was in such valleys that the Arabian Woodpecker was found, as also the Glossy Starling, a species of *Serinus*, and others.

Beyond the plateau lies the true desert with its special denizens—Larks of many species, Macqueen's Bustard, Stone Curlews, Coursers, Sandgrouse, etc. Space forbids any attempt to speak of this area in greater detail. The Ostrich was once common enough in these parts, though it appears now to be extinct, except in the northern Arabian desert about Jauf.

Dr. Bannerman sent the following description of a new race of the South African Sand-Martin from the Cameroon highlands, which he proposed to name

Riparia paludicola newtoni, subsp. nov.

Description.—Adult male. Most nearly allied to the Abyssinian subspecies *Riparia paludicola schoensis* Reichw., from which it differs in lacking the white belly of that race, which in *R. p. newtoni* is pale brown. The upper parts are also a deeper tone of brown. From *R. p. minor*, the Nigerian and Sudan race, the new form may easily be recognized by its very much darker colouring both above and below.

Distribution.—The Bamenda district of British Cameroons, 3800–5000 feet.

Type.—Adult male in the British Museum (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1926.8.8.195). Bambulue, near Bamenda, 4800 feet, Brit. Cameroons, Feb. 1, 1925. G. L. Bates coll. Wing 100 mm.

Remarks.—The habitat of this new race lies over 2000 miles to the west of the mountainous country inhabited by its nearest ally. The differences mentioned above are well marked, and I have no doubt that the dark belly of the Cameroons bird will prove to be a constant character, as well as its darker upper parts. I have had great pleasure in naming this new race in honour of Mr. Robert Newton, District Officer at Bamenda, who, although he did not secure the type, has furnished me with such excellent field-notes on the many rare mountain species which live in those highlands, and concerning which we knew practically nothing about their life-histories until Mr. Newton sent me his valuable notes

for publication in my ' Birds of Tropical West Africa.' It is with great regret that I have just learned that Mr. Newton has been transferred to Palestine.

Mr. G. L. Bates sent the following description of a new race of Wheatear :—

Œnanthe lugubris boscaweni, subsp. nov.

Description.—Adult male like *Œ. lugubris lugentoides*, but whole top of head white without dark shaft-streaks, the bases of the white feathers being uniform buffy-brown ; the white of the rump also extending farther on to the back than in *Œ. l. lugentoides*.

Type in the British Museum, collected by Lt.-Col. M. T. Boscawen at Tarim in Wadi Hadhramaut, February 22, 1932. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1932.4.20.12.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 87 mm., tail 60, tarsus 23, bill from skull 19.

Remarks.—The white head makes the four Hadhramaut males look at first glance like *Œnanthe lugens lugens* ; but the distinction of the two groups or species *Œ. lugens* and *Œ. lugubris*, as was shown in ' The Ibis,' 1936, p. 706, lies more in the proportions of body, legs, and wings, and in the wing-formula than in the plumage of the male ; and by this criterion the Hadhramaut birds are *Œ. lugubris*. Moreover, the two females and one juvenile collected with the four males belong to *Œ. lugubris*, but not *Œ. lugens*. These seven specimens were collected at four separate places in Hadhramaut—three at Mukalla on the coast, one half-way between the coast and Tarim, the type and one female at Tarim, and one male in Wadi Du'an.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following three notes :—

(1) On *Caprimulgus europæus* Linnæus, and its Races in Eastern Africa.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 247, recognizes three races as occurring in Africa, but consideration must also be given to *C. e. sarudnyi* Hartert. Meinertzhagen, Nicoll's

Bds. of Egypt, i. 1930, p. 322, and others consider *C. e. sarudnyi* to be an unsatisfactory race, and we entirely agree that there is no constant character by which specimens can be distinguished when in their winter quarters.

As regards *C. e. meridionalis*, Hartert in the original description (Ibis, 1896, p. 370) states that it is short-winged, and that it is darker in the west (*i. e.*, Spain) and paler in the east (*i. e.*, Greece). Meinertzhagen, Ibis, 1922, p. 43, considers that this race can only be recognized on size, and gives wings of males 174–189 mm. (type of *C. e. meridionalis* as 188, and another Grecian specimen as 187 mm.), against 189–204 mm. in *C. e. europæus*. Bates, Handb. Bds. W. Afr. 1930, p. 214, recognizes this race only as occurring in West Africa, but Bannerman, Bds. Trop. W. Afr. iii. 1933, pp. 149 and 151, gives both *C. e. europæus* and *C. e. meridionalis*.

Wing-measurements (in mm.) of specimens in the British Museum collection are :—

Great Britain.
♂ 183–200 (seven measured).
♀ 183–200 (thirteen measured).

Germany.
♂ 191 (one measured).
♀ 190–198 (three measured).

Serbia.
♀ 194–200 (two measured).

Balearic Islands.
♂ 186 (one measured).

Sweden.
♂ 195 (one measured).

France.
♀ 191 (one measured).

Spain and Portugal.
♂ 183–193 (two measured).
♀ 185–187 (two messured).

Sicily.
♂ 202 (one measured).

This gives for northern specimens, Sweden, Great Britain, France, and Germany, males 183–200 ; females 183–200 mm. ; and for southern specimens, Spain, Portugal, Balearic Islands, Sicily, and Serbia, males 183–202 ; females 185–200 mm. Although we have been unable to examine any specimens from Greece, the measurements given do show that there is a complete overlap in measurements, and it would appear that *C. e. meridionalis* is not smaller than *C. e. europæus*. The wing-measurements of the type of *C. e. meridionalis* and another Grecian specimen, as given by Meinertzhagen, are within the measurements of the seven males from Great Britain measured by us. We therefore also consider *C. e. meridionalis* to be a very unsatisfactory race, and fail to see any character

by which it can be recognized in its winter quarters.* We can, therefore, only admit two races to the East African list :—

Caprimulgus europæus europæus Linnæus, Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 193 : Sweden.

Caprimulgus europæus unwini Hume, Ibis, 1871, p. 406 : Agrore Valley, Hazara District, north-western India.

(2) On some necessary changes in the Status of some Eastern African Nightjars.

(*a*) We agree with Friedmann, Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1930, p. 307, that *Caprimulgus frenatus* Salvad. be placed as a race of *Caprimulgus pectoralis* Cuvier. It is clear by the general markings of the upper parts and the amount of white in the tail of males that this is the correct place for it, and not as a race of *Caprimulgus rufigena* Smith. This leaves *Caprimulgus rufigena* Smith as a species with a, so far, broken distribution from South Africa to the Sudan, Nigeria, and the Cameroons.

(*b*) We agree with Sclater and Moreau, Ibis, 1932, p. 522, that *Caprimulgus guttifer* Grote is better treated as a species, as its smaller size and the amount of white on the tail of males does not agree with *C. pectoralis* Cuvier. The distribution of *C. guttifer* is now known to be from the Usambara Mts. in north-eastern Tanganyika Territory to Njombe in south-central Tanganyika Territory ; furthermore, *C. pectoralis frenatus* occurs in Tanganyika Territory as far south as Njombe.

(*c*) *Caprimulgus ruwenzorii* O. Grant must be treated as a species. It is not a race of *Caprimulgus poliocephalus* Rüpp., as the amount of white in the tail of males does not agree with that species.

(*d*) We are of opinion that, as *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis* Reichw. has the same general colour appearance and the same amount of white in the tail of males as *Caprimulgus fervidus* Sharpe, it must be placed as a race of that species. Specimens in the British Museum collection show that the distribution of

* The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain informs us that the eggs of *C. e. meridionalis* can be distinguished by their size.

Caprimulgus fervidus fervidus Sharpe extends as far north as Kilosa, and Kikore (Kondoa District), in Tanganyika Territory.

(3) On the Breeding Range of *Cosmetornis vexillarius* (Gould), Icon. Av. pt. ii. 1838, pl. 3 : Sierra Leone.

In the British Museum collection is an adult female and two eggs of this species collected by C. H. B. Grant on the top of Kahara Mt., Ushingo, Kasulu District, western Tanganyika Territory, on October 6, 1923. This agrees with Chapin, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. xxxv. 1916, p. 73, Map, who gives breeding dates as from September to January and the breeding area as far north as 3° to 5° S. lat.

10 DEC 1937
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCIX.

The four-hundred-and-fourth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, December 8, 1937.

Chairman : Mr. G. M. Mathews.

Members present :—W. B. Alexander ; Dr. D. A. Bannerman ; Miss P. Barclay-Smith ; F. J. F. Barrington ; Miss M. G. S. Best ; A. W. Boyd ; Mrs. E. S. Charles ; Hon. G. L. Charteris ; Miss J. M. Ferrier ; J. Fisher ; Miss E. M. Godman ; B. Guy Harrison ; Dr. J. M. Harrison ; Dr. E. Hopkinson ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; N. B. Kinnear ; Miss E. P. Leach ; Dr. G. Carmichael Low ; Rear-Admiral H. Lynes ; C. W. Mackworth-Praed ; J. H. McNeile ; C. Oldham ; B. B. Osmaston ; H. Leyborne Popham ; Miss G. M. Rhodes ; D. Seth-Smith ; Mrs. R. Steuart ; C. R. Stonor ; Marquess of Tavistock ; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson (*Hon. Sec.*) ; B. W. Tucker ; Mrs. H. W. Boyd Watt ; H. Whistler ; H. F. Witherby ; C. G. M. de Worms.

Guests :—J. F. M. Floyd ; A. Gibbon ; Miss C. E. Godman ; Miss M. Godman ; I. R. P. Heslop ; Miss M. Leyborne Popham ; H. Boyd Watt.

Members 36 ; Guests 7.

The Revd. F. C. R. Jourdain spoke on the subject of the White Stork (*Ciconia c. ciconia*) with special reference to the recent experiments, and also with regard to certain aspects of its migrations and life-history.

With regard to the introduction of these birds to England in 1937, there were, apparently, two objects—firstly, to ascertain whether young birds removed from Eastern Germany to the westward would follow the westward or eastward route of migration, and secondly (as many people imagined), to naturalize it in Great Britain as a summer resident. The first was, I believe, the aim of those who supplied the eggs and young birds. That young Storks reared here would return is improbable, as young have already been reared here and in due course migrated south, but did not return. The plan of placing Storks' eggs in Herons' nests seems to have been adopted without due consideration. In addition to the difficulties attendant on the differences in breeding season, size and colour of eggs, and incubation period, the feeding habits of the two birds are very different. Young Herons seize the parents' bill from the side, pull it down, and when the food appears in the lower mandible of the parent feed directly from it, swallowing the contents. The Stork, on the other hand, regurgitates food on to the nest and the young pick from it and are, in the earliest stages, fed by the parent from the food before them with small portions. Such essential differences between birds of different genera and families point to probable failure, and, in fact, this actually resulted, and subsequently young birds were imported. Then a study of ringing returns shows clearly that the Stork avoids anything like a long sea passage, even at the cost of hundreds of miles of extra travelling. Some of the imported birds, when moving south, reached the Dorset coast and the Isle of Wight. It would have been far more likely that birds liberated in East Anglia would cross the Straits of Dover (21 miles) than that birds from Dumfries should cross the Channel where it is about 60 miles wide. Birds should only be liberated where their natural food is abundant, and rabbits and mackerel are not the natural food of the White Stork !

Recent statements at meetings of the B. O. C. that Storks from East Germany migrate to West Africa have (as Dr. D. A. Bannerman assured the meeting) been now withdrawn. The route, clearly shown by returns of ringed birds, passes through the Balkan Peninsula, Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, and down the eastern side of Africa to the Cape Province. Even for Denmark we have only records from the Cameroons (1) and Lake Tchad, while it is one of the great problems connected with this species to ascertain where the many thousands of breeding Storks from the Iberian Peninsula and North-West Africa spend their short winter and what route they follow, but it is evident that they cannot range nearly so far south as their East European relatives, and probably winter somewhere in Equatorial Africa, and the few records we have tend to support this theory.

The extraordinary way in which the White Stork restricts the number of its family, by throwing out both eggs and young, was then referred to, and figures were quoted from Herren F. Hornberger and Lange as to the large numbers destroyed by the birds themselves in this way. Although the White Stork has practically no enemies, and has no need of special protection, the accurate returns from Middle Europe show that side by side with a steady increase in the numbers of breeding pairs in most districts (up to 1936) there was an equally striking decrease in the rate of young actually reared. The figures are given in papers by Herren Scheur, Emeis, Hornberger, Schüz, and others, so that it is not necessary to repeat them here. One example will suffice : Lange states that in Denmark in 1931 356 pairs reared 1000 young (average 2·8 per nest) ; in 1935 690 pairs reared only 1068 young (average 1·5 per nest). No fewer than 209 pairs had no family ! It is a strange phenomenon that the ancient emblem of fertility should become the pioneer of family restriction, and it would be of much interest to ascertain the underlying causes.

Dr. D. A. Bannerman, in Dr. Manson-Bahr's absence, said that as he (Dr. Manson Bahr) had laid himself open to criticism, he wished to state that the day following the last meeting he had received a letter from Dr. Manson-Bahr apologizing

for having made an inaccurate statement, at the last meeting of the Club, about the occurrence of White Storks in West Africa. The mistake was due to his having read rather carelessly the 17th Report (in German) from Rossitten Observatory, and he had asked Dr. Bannerman on his behalf to withdraw the statement he had made and to see that it was not published in the ' Bulletin.'

Dr. Manson-Bahr in a corrected statement wrote that the tragedy to which he had referred occurred in February 1937 in the eastern districts of South Africa, where there were very heavy rainstorms. " It was thought that many Storks were then infected with intestinal parasites, to which they succumbed in May when on their northward journey. In order to clear up the matter the staff at Rossitten are now in touch with the Parasitological Institute in Pretoria."

Dr. Bannerman further said that since the publication of the first volume of his book, seven years ago, in which he had mentioned the White Stork as a " dry-season visitor " to the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast and Nigeria, although actual records were very scarce, he had received an eye-witness's account of a considerable migration which had been observed in Bornu. His informant, Mr. A. M. Gwynn, at the time a Nigerian Government official, had written to him that White Storks were first seen by him on December 19, 1933, when half a dozen were noted feeding in flooded short grass along the Lake Tchad shore near Baga Seyorum. They were not far from the shore, and permitted close approach. Mr. Gwynn was at the time aware of the paucity of records from that area, and was also aware that a nesting colony of the Wood-Ibis had been mistaken for that of the White Stork, so took special notice of them. On the following day three were seen in the same place. Nearly a year later, October 29, 1934, a large flock, probably a couple of hundred birds, was seen between Mudu and Kasa, not far from Dikwa (Bornu). Some were on the ground, others circling in the air. During the next few days Mr. Gwynn saw this, or other flocks, on several occasions, the last being a large flock circling near Maidugari, Bornu, about November 7. Dr. Bannerman suggested, in view of this evidence, that there

was no reason to suppose the White Stork did not pass regularly through the Tchad Territory to winter, perhaps, in some as yet undiscovered part of Central Africa. Reports of its occurrence in Ubangi–Shari were, however, very rare, which suggested that the Tchad Storks passed farther south. Mr. Jourdain had mentioned the great numbers of Storks which bred in Algeria and Marocco, and it should not be difficult, by ringing some of these birds, to eventually trace them to their winter quarters. There were a few records of migrating birds from Mauretania, as Dr. G. Bouet had recently mentioned in the Revue Fr. d'Orn. no. 1, 1937.

Finally, Dr. Bannerman said he would like to take this opportunity to draw attention to a barbarous incident which had been reported to him from Uganda, where a native—in order to get the small monetary reward offered for the capture of ringed birds—had caught an exhausted Stork, deliberately broken both its wings, and brought the bird alive, with ring attached to it, to claim the reward. The incident had caused considerable indignation in the Station where it had occurred, particularly when it was learned later that the native had received his payment. Dr. Bannerman said he had this report on first-hand authority, and he hoped that steps would be taken immediately to discourage the practice before it grew, and to make it clear to the native population that *no reward* would be paid to anyone who had secured the rings by cruel methods such as he had had described to him. He was sure that all those who were interested in the ringing of birds would support this plea.

Mr. I. R. P. Heslop said that in Nigeria the natives were very intelligent about reporting ringed birds, without expectation of reward.

The Marquess of Tavistock said that in reference to Mr. Jourdain's remarks on the small likelihood of success for the experiment of raising young Storks under Herons, he remembered reading that in one instance the Herons did succeed in hatching the Stork's eggs, but the young birds died very soon, probably, as Mr. Jourdain suggested, owing to the different methods the two species had of feeding their nestlings.

There did not appear to be any record of the successful introduction of a migratory bird into a new and unnatural habitat, except in cases where, as with the Canada Goose and, to a lesser extent, the American Snow Goose, the effect of artificial introduction had appeared to result in the destruction of the migratory instinct altogether.

At Woburn Abbey some years ago a pinioned pair of European Cranes produced two young, which were allowed to remain full-winged. These did not migrate until they were fully adult, when they nested and reared two young, but that autumn all four birds left and never returned, although it could not, of course, be known positively that they were not shot.

In regard to Mr. Jourdain's description of the curious habit displayed by Storks of destroying some of their eggs or young, he remembered reading a few years ago, in an apparently reliable article by an American ornithologist, that a species of Gannet (not the British one) normally laid two eggs, but never reared more than one young bird, invariably deserting or destroying the second egg or nestling.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear cited evidence that eating poisoned locusts was not a cause of fatalities among Storks.

Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson agreed with Mr. Jourdain that the recent experiment in England was of a kind not likely to throw light on migration. Presumably the idea had been to see what route the birds took in autumn, as in the previous experiments where the young had been removed from one part of Germany to another : these had been made under more favourable conditions and with larger numbers, but even so the results had been scanty and difficult to interpret.

He also agreed as to the great importance of the data obtained by ringing Storks in the normal course in Denmark, Germany, Hungary, and elsewhere. The separation into south-eastward and south-westward flighting birds presented a problem of special interest : some of the Danish birds and those from the extreme west of Germany took the latter direction, but there seemed to be no definite boundary.

Although there were a few records of European ringed Storks from North-West, Central, and South-West Africa, there were only three records from tropical West Africa—a German bird in the French Congo and Danish birds respectively in the French Congo and the Cameroons.

Dr. Thomson then referred to the recent paper by Schüz ('Vögelzug,' viii. 1937, p. 175) on the migration of the White Stork in the spring of 1937. Many of the birds had been three or four weeks late in arriving in Germany : as a result they had failed to breed or had bred either unsuccessfully or very late. Evidence had been collected from different parts of South and East Africa that large numbers of Storks had been seen at unusually late dates, and that this might be related to exceptionally heavy rains and flooding there in the early months of the year. He agreed with Mr. Kinnear that the repeated reports of numerous deaths from eating poisoned locusts were unsubstantiated.

Mr. B. W. Tucker doubted the idea that the number of Storks in Holland had been reduced by discouragement of nests on buildings owing to the pollution caused. Many artificial sites on poles had been deserted, and the decrease at the time in question had been widespread in Central Europe.

Miss Phyllis Barclay-Smith said that those who had reared the young Storks in England last year had presumably had the benefit of the German experience : the birds had been sent from Rossitten, where rearing had previously been successfully undertaken.

Mr. C. R. Stonor referred to the case of a pair of captive Lammergeiers, in which two eggs were laid each season, but one was always destroyed at the time of hatching. Also to the recent case of a White × Black Stork hybrid (in captivity).

Mr. James Fisher inquired whether the increase in the Stork population was accompanied by an increase in parasites or the occurrence of epidemic disease, which might be a limiting factor. Also whether the European Starling in America was not an exception to the Marquess of Tavistock's statement that no migrant had been successfully introduced into a new area and retained its migratory habits.

The Hon G. L. Charteris mentioned the case of a pair of Storks in Hungary of which the male was killed after the eggs had been laid. A new mate was taken, but the eggs of the original union were ejected.

Mr. G. M. Mathews sent the following note on the name of the British Long-tailed Tit :—

Mecistura rosea Blyth, Loudon's Mag. Nat. Hist. ix. August 1836, p. 394. In this article on moults Blyth has placed an asterisk against the English name "Rose Muffler," but not against the Latin name "*Mecistura rosea*," which is in brackets. This asterisk refers to the footnote "*Parus caudatus* Linné." It is therefore clear that Blyth considered the "Rose Muffler" to be same bird as that named by Linnæus. The point raised is whether he intended the Latin name to be connected with the English name. I think there can be no doubt that this is what he intended, and that Blyth's Latin and English names refer to one and the same bird. This being so, *Mecistura rosea* must be considered as a substitute name for *Parus caudatus* Linné.

Mecistura rosea Blyth, Nat. Hist. of Selborne, 1836 (? 1837), p. 111 : Selborne, Hampshire. The name in this work is preoccupied by that in the above work. Therefore the British Long-tailed Tit requires a new name, and as it is so much more suffused with pink than the Continental form I name it

Ægithalus caudatus rosaceus, nom. nov.,

for *Mecistura rosea* Blyth, Nat. Hist. of Selbourne, 1836, p. 111 : Selborne, Hampshire ; not *Mecistura rosea* Blyth, Loudon's Mag. Nat. Hist. ix. 1836, p. 394.

Monsieur J. Berlioz sent the following description of a new race of Humming-bird from Peru—

Oreonympha nobilis albolimbata, subsp. nov.

Description.—Male adult. Similar in shape and pattern to *O. nobilis* Gould. Forehead and vertex dull deep brown-red,

bordered on each side with a band of white feathers, centred with metallic bluish-green, these green centres much reduced in front, more conspicuous on the pileum, where they merge into the dark metallic-bronzy colour of the neck. Upper parts of the body metallic-bronze, varied on the nape and hind neck with dull brown-red edgings to the feathers ; upper tail-coverts reddish-coppery bronze. Bronze and white pattern of the tail-feathers quite similar to that of *O. nobilis nobilis*, but the bronze colour with a much more reddish-coppery hue. Underparts as in *O. n. nobilis* ; cheeks and throat deep black, with the middle of the latter brilliant metallic-green, this green patch followed by a tuft of elongated feathers of a metallic pinkish-purple ; sides of chest whitish, merging on breast and abdomen into dirty whitish-grey or very light brownish ; under tail-coverts bronze, with whitish edgings to the smaller ones.

Type.—In the British Museum ; adult male, Yauli, Huancavelica, central W. Peru (about 11,500 feet) ; collected on September 8, 1937, by A. Morrison.

Measurements of type.—Culmen 23 mm. (0·9 in.) ; wing 85 ; tail 85.

Remarks.—The female is smaller than the male but with a relatively shorter tail, of the same general pattern and colours, but lacking the well-defined and showy markings of head and throat, or rather with only slight and variable indications of the same, the feathers of throat and sides of forehead more or less varied with whitish fringes.

Specimens examined : *O. nobilis albolimbata*, 1 ♂ ad. (type), 1 ♂ imm., 2 ♀♀ ; *O. nobilis nobilis*, 3 ♂♂ ad., 3 ♀♀ ad.)

This new handsome Humming-bird was discovered in central Western Peru by Mr. Alaister Morrison, and seems to be a well-defined western geographical representative of the allied *O. nobilis* Gould. It is only slightly smaller than the latter, but at once distinguished by the white bands on each side of the crown in the male, these bands being metallic purple-blue in *O. nobilis nobilis*, with only sometimes a very faint indication of white near the commissure of the bill, and by the tail-feathers being decidedly more coppery. The

two females examined differ from the same sex of *O. nobilis nobilis* in the same way as do the males; neither of them, however, show any metallic feathers on the throat (contrary to the female of *O. n. nobilis*), but this character seems rather variable among the Trochilidæ belonging to this and the neighbouring groups (*Chalcostigma*, *Heliangelus*, etc.), and until further material is received it cannot be considered as being of great value.

It may be added that *O. nobilis* was hitherto known only from the mountains in south-eastern Peru, Cuzco province, where it was discovered by H. Whitely, and collected later on also by O. Garlepp and others (it is common in the temperate and puna zones of the Urubamba Valley according to Chapman).

Mr. C. M. N. White sent the following note on some Solomon Island birds :—

The following notes refer only to some points of interest in a small collection of birds from Bougainville collected at Buin by the Revd. Poncelet. In deciding what was worthy of note I have, of course, based my considerations upon the numerous recent papers, mainly by Dr. E. Mayr in American Museum 'Novitates,' and the earlier paper by Rothschild and Hartert (Nov. Zool. xii. 1905, p. 243).

Phalacrocorax m. melanoleucus (Vieill.).

A male (5. iii. 36) is clearly this race, not *P. m. brevicauda* Mayr. Wing 250 mm., tail 165.

Not previously recorded from the more northern Solomons.

Dupetor f. woodfordi (Ogilvie-Grant).

Two examples (24. i. 36 and 27. xii. 35). Wings 210, 215 mm.

The whole species *Dupetor flavicollis* is obviously in need of a full revision to determine variation. There is a gradual progression from birds with a distinctive blue and black plumage from India and Burma to the brown birds from

Moluccas and Australia and the more rufous birds in the Solomons. Judging from the material examined, the latter really form a race which retains a more immature stage of plumage throughout life. New to Bougainville.

Nesoclopeus woodfordi (Ogilvie-Grant).

A male collected 7. iv. 36 shows that this Rail drops all its quills simultaneously when moulting. Another January example is in full plumage. Both have much larger bills than the type, which does look a juvenile, though Rothschild and Hartert (*l. c.* p. 248) doubted this.

Charmosyna placentis pallidior (R. & H.).

Neither the green colour being lighter nor the shorter wing seem to be actual facts to separate this race from *subplacens* (Scl.). It is supposed to intergrade with the latter in Woodlark Island, and perhaps in Northern Papua. From the good series I have seen—twelve from Bougainville and twelve from New Britain and Woodlark Island—I cannot even see a trace of intergradation. Material of *C. subplacens* is small (three examples) and from Northern Papua ; this seems quite inseparable from *C. p. pallidior.* As *C. subplacens* was described from Narabui I cannot unite the two races without further material from the south coast ; but in any case I think birds from N.E. New Guinea should be called *C. p. pallidior.* Typical *C. placentis* certainly has darker ear-coverts than *C. p. pallidior* ; *C. intensior* is very distinct in the North Moluccas, intermediate in Seran and in the Aru Islands.

Ceyx lepida meeki Rothsch.

C. l. pallidus Mayr, 1935, Am. Mus. Nov. 820, p. 2 : Bougainville had better be placed as a synonym. It was based on only three examples, and on differences noted in the field. Four examples which I have received do not support its characters, and Dr. Mayr tells me that additional material now available in the Rothschild Collection does not support it. Only one of my four examples is paler below than four from Choiseul in the British Museum.

Monsieur V. Danis (Bull. Mus. Nation. d'Hist. Nat. ix. March 1937, p. 119) in a paper on some birds from Bougainville regards *meeki* as a distinct species, but I do not think this view is tenable.

Podargus ocellatus inexpectatus Hart.

A male and female. Wings : ♂, 215 mm., ♀ 217.

Rothschild and Hartert (*l. c.*, p. 258) thought four Bougainville and Choiseul birds might be a different race, as they were smaller than one from Isabel—wings 198–207 mm. against 220. This is not confirmed by these two further skins.

Chalcites lucidus lucidus (Gm.).

A male (21. v. 37) supports the conclusions reached by Mayr (Am. Mus. Nov. 520, 1932, p. 3). The date is earlier than most previous records, though Meek collected one on Vella Lavella on March 16.

Mr. R. E. Moreau sent the following description of a new race of Bar-throated Warbler :—

Apalis murina fuscigularis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Apalis murina murina*, but has the throat to chest wholly sooty-black ; and the chin ashy-brown, as are the sides of the face and top of head.

Distribution.—The three small patches of evergreen forest remaining on the top of the Taita Hills, southern Kenya Colony.

Type.—In the British Museum ; male adult ; collector's no. 4483. Taita Hills, southern Kenya Colony (5400 feet), November 12, 1937, collected by R. E. Moreau.

Measurements of type.—Wing 54 mm. ; tail 50 mm.

Remarks.—Two other males from the same locality agree with the type. A female is of especial interest, having the chin whitish and the throat sooty-brown ; individual feathers on the throat have white tips, especially those along its lower edge, so that a blackish breast-band, occupying the same position as in *Apalis murina*, is perceptibly defined.

This new race was wholly unexpected, as it occurs on the extreme periphery of the range of the group, which has not hitherto been found so far north as Kenya Colony.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following two notes :—

(1) On the Type-locality of *Cypselus barbatus* (*Micropus apus barbatus*) P. L. Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1865, p. 599.

Sclater adopted an MS. name written by Temminck on two specimens from South Africa, and does not specify any other locality. This has been followed by all authors. Dr. Junge of the Leiden Museum has kindly informed us that there are three specimens, all labelled "S. Africa, Cap." Catalogue No. 1, adult is labelled as "Type of Temminck." The other two are males and were collected on "September 10, (1833)." The locality given on the type allows us to fix the type-locality of *Cypselus barbatus* P. L. Sclater as Cape Province, South Africa.

(2) On some East African Swifts.

Van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 88, considers *C. niansæ* and *A. kittenbergeri* to be synonyms, and *A. reichenowi* to be a synonym of *A. æquatorialis*.

Meinertzhagen, Ibis, 1922, p. 36, places *A. a. kollibayi* as a synonym of *M. a. apus*, and *A. a. marwitzi* as a synonym of *A. a. pekinensis*, and on p. 42 considers that *C. niansæ* and *A. kittenbergeri* have nothing to do with the *M. a. apus* group.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 256, treats *A. a. kollibayi* as a race of *M. a. apus*, *C. niansæ* as a species, and *A. reichenowi* and *A. kittenbergeri* as races of *M. æ. æquatorialis*.

None of these authors appear to have had the opportunity of examining the types.

Through the very great kindness of Dr. Stresemann of the Berlin Museum, Dr. Greschik of the Budapest Museum, Dr. Sassi of the Vienna Museum, and Dr. Festa of the Turin Museum we have had on loan the types of *A. a. marwitzi*, *C. s. marwitzi*, *C. niansæ*, *A. reichenowi*, *A. kittenbergeri*, *A. a. kollibayi*, and *C. myoptilus*.

The examination of these types has not only completely cleared up the confusion in this group, but shows that without the types it is impossible to come to a definite conclusion.

The results of this examination and comparison are as follows :—

(a) *Apus apus marwitzi* Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. 1906, p. 171 : Mkalama, Tanganyika Territory, is a synonym of *Micropus apus pekinensis* (Swinhoe), P. Z. S. 1870, p. 435 : Pekin, China ; and *Apus apus kollibayi* Tschusi, Orn. Jahrb. xiii. 1902, p. 234 : Curzola Island, Dalmatia, is a synonym of *Micropus apus apus* (Linnæus), Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 192 : Sweden, which agrees with the conclusions of Meinertzhagen.

(b) *Cypselus niansæ* Reichenow, J. f. O. 1887, p. 61 : Kagehi, near Mwanza, Kwimba District, Tanganyika Territory =*Cypselus shelleyi* Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, xxvi. 1888, p. 227 : Dembi, Shoa, Central Abyssinia, the type of *C. niansæ* agreeing with the type and series of *C. shelleyi* in the British Museum Collection.

As both *C. niansæ* and *C. barbatus* occur in north-eastern Tanganyika Territory, we propose to treat the former as a species, and call the latter a race of *Micropus apus*.

(c) *Apus kittenbergeri* Madarász, Arch. Zool. Budapest, i. 1910, p. 177 : Ngare Dowash (=Upper Amala River), south-western Kenya Colony, is the same bird as that described by Vincent as *Micropus apus lawsonæ*, Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 240 : Palombe, Mlanje District, Nyasaland.

Our critical examination further shows that none of the characters given by Vincent hold good, and that *M. a. lawsonæ*=*M. a. barbatus*, specimens in the British Museum Collection from near Cape Town and Natal agreeing perfectly with Nyasaland birds. The combined wing-measurements of specimens from South Africa to Kenya Colony give 163–189 mm., which agrees with the range of wing-measurements of *Micropus apus apus*, 158–182 mm., and *Micropus apus pekinensis*, 163–185 mm. Therefore both *A. kittenbergeri* and *M. a. lawsonæ* become synonyms of *Micropus apus barbatus* (P. L. Sclater) Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1865, p. 599 : Cape Province, South Africa.

(d) *Apus reichenowi* Neumann, Bull. B. O. C xxi. 1908, p. 57 : Dönje Erok (=Doinyo Erok) Mt., southern Kenya Colony, is quite a distinct bird and should be treated as a species, not as a race of *Micropus æquatorialis æquatorialis* (Müller), especially in view of the observation in the original description, as follows : —" On Dönje Erok this species lives side by side with *A. æquatorialis* and other Swifts."

(e) As stated by Sharpe, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. xvi. 1892, p. 459, the type of *Cypselus myoptilus* Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, xxvi. 1888, p. 228 : Let Marifia, Shoa, Central Abyssinia, is a young bird. The flight- and tail-feathers are not fully grown, and the specimen could only have just left the nest. The wing-measurement of 110 mm. given for the type is therefore valueless. Allowing for its youth, this specimen agrees with an adult female from Nanyuki, Kenya Colony, kindly loaned to us by Colonel Meinertzhagen, and with the type of *Micropus achimodzi* Vincent, Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 171 : Palombe, Mlanje District, Nyasaland, which thus becomes a synonym of *Micropus myoptilus*.

The four known specimens give the following dates :— Central Abyssinia, September 10 ; Kenya Colony, March 7 ; Kilimanjaro, January 2 ; Nyasaland, September 6 ; the first and last records show that it is resident throughout its range. The wing-measurements of the three adult specimens give 127–141 mm.

(f) *Chætura stictilæma marwitzi* Reichenow, O. M. xiv. 1906, p. 171 : Mkalama, Tanganyika Territory. The type is very dull in colour, being dull sooty-brown, and the wings and tail, though black, have very little blue-black gloss. It is not brown or faded and does not agree in tone of colour with four specimens in the British Museum Collection from north-eastern Tanganyika Territory. No other specimens are available from the Mkalama country. We believe, therefore, that it is a good race of *Telacanthura ussheri*.

Bird Room

FEB 1938
URCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCX.

THE four-hundred-and-fifth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, January 12, 1938.

Chairman: Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN.

Members present:—Miss C. M. ACLAND; W. B. ALEXANDER; Miss P. BARCLAY-SMITH; Mrs. R. G. BARNES; F. J. F. BARRINGTON; Miss B. A. CARTER; Hon. G. L. CHARTERIS; Brig.-General G. V. CLARKE; H. P. O. CLEAVE; Miss J. M. FERRIER; J. FISHER; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT (*Editor*); B. GUY HARRISON; Dr. J. M. HARRISON; Mrs. T. E. HODGKIN; Miss E. P. LEACH; Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW; C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED; J. H. MCNEILE; J. G. MAVROGORDATO; Dr. W. NORMAN MAY; Mrs. D. MICHOLLS; T. H. NEWMAN; C. OLDHAM; H. LEYBORNE POPHAM; W. L. SCLATER; Major A. G. L. SLADEN (*Hon. Treas.*); D. SETH-SMITH; C. R. STONOR; Marquess of TAVISTOCK; Miss D. L. TAYLOR; Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON (*Hon. Sec.*); B. W. TUCKER; Miss E. L. TURNER; Mrs. H. W. BOYD WATT; C. M. N. WHITE; H. F. WITHERBY.

Guests:—J. A. E. BARNES; C. T. DALGETY; Mrs. DALGETY; Lady CONSTANCE HOWARD; A. MICHOLLS; Mrs. SCLATER; H. N. SOUTHERN; L. S. V. VENABLES; H. G. VEVERS.

Members 38; Guests 9.

Mr. W. B. Alexander and Mr. H. N. Southern made the following remarks on distribution of the bridled form of the Common Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) :—

The occurrence of polymorphism in birds is well known, but quite unstudied, much less explained. In the Common Guillemot, Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), and Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*) the lighter dimorphic form occurs nearer the poles, but in the Reef Heron (*Demigretta sacra*) it is tropical, and in the Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) there is east and west differentiation of ranges.

Present information shows that the bridled Guillemot grows commoner in the more northern parts of the British Isles, but available figures are few, and there are frequently discrepancies in figures for the same colony. In the area of *U. a. albionis* percentages are low—on the South Coast (*e.g.*, Durlston Head) 1 per cent., in Pembrokeshire 0·5 per cent., while in North Wales several observers have reported not a single bridled bird to be present. Ireland shows about the same range of figures. In the Farnes the proportion rises to about 5 per cent., and in the Isle of May to 12 per cent. In the west the Hebridean region has 8 to 20 per cent., though on St. Kilda the numbers are again low. On the north coast of Scotland and the Orkneys reports vary from 5 per cent. to 50 per cent., but probably the most accurate figure would be about 20 per cent. In the Shetlands a large count on Noss gave 33 per cent. of bridled birds.

Outside the British Isles figures are even less satisfactory. In Heligoland 1 per cent. is in accordance with its latitude in comparison with England ; in the Faroes, with their own race, *U. a. spiloptera*, 20 per cent. are said to be bridled, while Iceland shows the highest figure of 75 to 80 per cent. in the Westmann Islands. In Bear Island the race *U. a. hyperborea* has slightly more bridled birds than ordinary, while in Norway, Greenland, and North America bridled birds occur, but there is no information as to numbers.

The question of the races is of interest because of the possible correlation with the distribution of the bridled character. The relationships of *U. a. albionis*, *U. a. aalge*, and intermediate birds (*e. g.*, from the Forth area) show that there

may be a geographical trend from south to north in back colour correlated with increasing percentages of bridled birds. On the other hand, the matter may not be so simple as this, since certain areas show isolation, *e. g.*, the Faroes, the Hebridean area, Bear Island. The gradation may be more irregular or stepped in nature instead of a simple trend.

Biological problems, such as the genetic situation involved, and the manner of spreading of the bridled gene and possible light on the question of speciation, may later be treated in the inquiry proposed by the British Trust for Ornithology, though the first requisite is reliable figures for all British Guillemot colonies It is hoped that a fairly complete picture of the status of bridled birds may be obtained during the coming year, and all ornithologists who may visit Guillemot colonies next summer are urged to help by making counts.

The Marquess of Tavistock exhibited an egg of the Tahiti Blue Lory and remarked :—

The egg shown is one of two (the normal clutch for the species) laid recently in my aviaries by a Tahiti Blue Lory (*Coriphilus peruvianus*). The little Parrots are now very rare, and are confined to certain small islets of the Tahiti group, having been exterminated over a great part of their former range, possibly through the introduction of rats. Indeed, I believe that for a time they were regarded by the Museum authorities as probably already extinct.

In a wild state the birds feed on the nectar of palm-tree blossom. In captivity I give mine Dr. Allinson's food, prepared as for infants and sweetened and then mixed with an equal volume of water. They also take ripe fruit, coconut "milk," and mealworms. The plumage of the adult is very striking and beautiful, being of a uniform glossy, dark blue, with a large white bib. The bill and feet are yellow, more orange in the cock than in the hen. There is little difference in the appearance of the sexes, but the male is slightly the larger of the two. The eyes are dark in colour and curiously small. The nestling down of the young is sparse and grey, and the first plumage blue-black, somewhat more black and less blue than that of the adult. There is a little greyish-white round

the chin, and the beak and feet are dusky. Adult plumage is probably assumed when the bird is about a year old, but of this, as yet, I have no certain knowledge.

The other egg laid at the same time as the one shown was hatched after an incubation period of a little over three weeks, and the young bird left the nest rather more than eight weeks later—a short period for a Lory. The nest provided was a hollow tree-trunk, filled with peat and decayed wood, the base resting in a vessel of water to provide the necessary moisture. Both sexes took turns at incubation, and when the young bird was very small the hen appeared to come off to feed more often than the cock. At the present time, that is to say about a month after the young bird left the nest, a second clutch of two eggs is being incubated.

C. peruvianus has a weak sibilant cry. Although it climbs actively, and a mated pair play together after the fashion of other Lories, the flight is extraordinarily weak and slow, resembling that of a sick or very young bird. In their natural habitat the Lories clearly can never encounter strong winds or have to move much further than from one branch of a tree to another.

The Revd. F. C. R. Jourdain invited Miss Phyllis Barclay-Smith to explain her remarks reported in the last ' Bulletin.'

Miss Phyllis Barclay-Smith accepted the invitation and made the following remarks :—

She said that though she had doubted several of Mr. Jourdain's remarks concerning the Stork experiment, as she had taken no part in the experiment herself, she had not gone further than to disagree with him in general terms at the last meeting. She had, however, forwarded a copy of the ' Bulletin ' containing the report of Mr. Jourdain's speech to Mr. Robert Blockey, of the Haslemere Educational Museum, who, with Mr. C. I. Blackburne, had been responsible for the Stork experiment, mentioning her doubts as to the accuracy of some of Mr. Jourdain's statements and asking for exact information.

Mr. Jourdain had mentioned that there had apparently been two objects for the experiment, the second being, as many

people imagined, to naturalize it in Great Britain as a summer resident. Mr. Blockey's reply to this was that they were not attempting to naturalize the Storks in Britain; they wished to see how they would behave, and were continuing the German experiments at the request of the Germans themselves. Mr. Blockey agreed with Mr. Jourdain's statement "That young Storks reared here would return is improbable," but added that they still might do so, and if they returned to their place of hatching in East Prussia, when mature in 1939, it would be just as interesting.

Mr. Jourdain had laid great stress on the lack of consideration exhibited in the experiment of placing Stork's eggs in Herons' nests, quoting the difficulties attendant on the differences in breeding season, size and colour of eggs, and incubation period, and the different feeding habits of the birds. To this Mr. Blockey had replied that the Herons proved perfect fosterers and were not worried in the slightest by the size and colour of the eggs. With regard to the differences in breeding season, many Herons have not laid by mid-May, as, for example, at the place in Kent where the eggs were placed.

Mr. Jourdain's statement that "Such essential differences between birds of different genera and families point to probable failure, and, in fact, this actually resulted and subsequently young birds were imported," is not quite correct, for one Stork had hatched out in 1937 and lived for sixteen days, and another had hatched in 1936 and lived for about six days. Miss Barclay-Smith also pointed out that the egg experiment was entirely subsidiary to the young bird experiment, and the latter was *not* undertaken *because* the former had not been a complete success. It had been decided to import young birds even before the idea of placing eggs under Herons had been thought of.

Mr. Jourdain had also drawn attention to the Stork's dislike of crossing large stretches of water, and had stated "It would have been far more likely that birds liberated in East Anglia would cross the straits of Dover (21 miles) than that birds from Dumfries should cross the Channel where it is about 60 miles wide." Miss Barclay-Smith said Mr. Jourdain was apparently unaware that the birds were released at a place

in Kent which is just as good, or even better, than East Anglia. He had inferred that all of them were liberated in Dumfries—only four were ; the other nineteen were brought up in Kent. Mr. Blockey had stated that two of the birds crossed to France from the Isle of Wight on October 6, 1936, and were shot immediately on arrival ; eight others were last seen in Cornwall on October 8.

Mr. Jourdain had also stated that " Birds should only be liberated where their natural food is abundant, and rabbits and mackerel are not the natural food of the White Stork." To this Mr. Blockey's comment was " We had several reports from eye-witnesses who watched the young Storks after they had left their ' rearing-place,' wandering about on stubble-fields, etc., feeding quite happily—apparently on crane-fly larvæ. There was plenty of natural food around their ' rearing place.' We were throughout in the closest touch with Rossitten, and they gave us every bit of information they could. Mr. Blackburne made a special trip over there shortly before the young were sent over. Nothing went wrong with the rearing ; all flew quite successfully, bar one which flew into some wire and had to be destroyed. They were naturally very tame, and this fact led people to think when they arrived on the Isle of Wight that they were starving, because they would take food almost out of one's hand."

Miss Barclay-Smith stated that an account of the whole experiment would shortly be published in ' Vögelzug.'

In reply Mr. Jourdain stated :—

His criticisms had not been directed against the importation of half-grown birds, but against the placing of eggs in Herons' nests. No advice on this point was given by the Rossitten authorities nor had they ever experimented on these lines. The result was that in two years twenty eggs of Storks came to grief and an equal number of Herons' eggs were displaced to make room for them. Two birds survived for a time, as Miss Barclay-Smith has just said, one for about a week and the other a fortnight. As not a single bird was reared the experiment proved a failure. The other point criticized was placing some young birds on the west side of Great Britain. That only two succeeded in crossing the Channel from the Isle of Wight seems to support this view. Birds

accustomed to feed themselves in a marsh would naturally stand a much better chance of surviving the journey across western France than domesticated birds brought up on food which might be cheap and effective in a zoo, but would render the birds dependent on human aid. He was quite aware that the Dumfries-shire birds were not the only ones liberated, as this was common knowledge. Since the meeting a letter has been received from Dr. Schüz in which he states that the suggestion of placing the eggs in Herons' nests emanated from Mr. Blackburne and not from Rossitten.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith remarked :—

With regard to the food given to the young Storks, which Mr. Jourdain evidently considers very unsuitable, I can only say that, as it would be impossible to procure sufficient frogs, mice, insects, and worms, the best substitute would be meat and fish, which was, in fact, used. The young birds would soon learn how to capture their natural food once they were reared.

Dr. J. M. Derscheid sent the following description of a new species of Teal from South America :—

A few weeks ago my friend, Mr. D. G. Schuyl, the well-known Dutch aviculturist, received in Rotterdam from South America a small consignment of Ducks which were at first identified as Brazilian Teal (*Amazonetta brasiliensis* Gm.) inasmuch as they were in very ragged plumage and rather poor condition after their voyage.

Some of them promptly died, but the remaining ones improved rapidly, so that it is now quite evident that they are different enough from any other known species to justify their description as a supposed new kind of Anatidæ.

Their marked affinity to the Brazilian Teal is still evident, but the differences are too numerous to allow us to consider the new form as simply a subspecies or local race of *A. brasiliensis*.

I must point out that the affinities of the Brazilian Teal are still obscure, and that in 1929 Dr. H. von Boetticher established for that species the monotypic genus *Amazonetta* (antedating the subgenus *Aixopsis* created in 1936 by Delacour to the same effect).

The new Teal is a sister-species to *Amazonetta brasiliensis* Gmel., for which I propose the name of

Amazonetta vittata, sp. nov. Schuyl's Teal.

Description.—(Adult male). Larger than *A. brasiliensis*; if the latter species be compared in size and bulk to the European Garganey the new Teal is definitely superior in size to the Baikal Teal (*Nettion formosum*).

Forehead and anterior part of cheeks pale chestnut-brown in *A. brasiliensis*; black in *A. vittata*, with only a brownish tinge on the cheeks.

The top of head is black in *A. vittata*; blackish in *A. brasiliensis*. Posterior part of cheeks and side of head a pale yellowish-grey, mixed with buff spots, in *A. brasiliensis*; silvery-grey without any admixture of buff in *A. vittata*.

The rear of the neck shows in the Brazilian Teal a black spot, with metallic-green sheen, merging more or less gradually above in the colour of the occiput, but abruptly separated behind from the pale brown of the mantle. In Schuyl's Teal the green-shining deep black of the nape merges as well in the general blackish colour above and behind it.

In *A. brasiliensis* the upper breast is pale chestnut-brown, with blackish-brown rounded spots. In *A. vittata* we notice first a black collar under which the feathers show transversal black and white bars or stripes on a general background of rather bright chestnut-brown.

The lower breast in *A. brasiliensis* is greyish buff, without any white, but a few obsolete dark spots; in *A. vittata* we find the same striped appearance as in the upper breast, but the ground-colour is pure white without a chestnut tinge. The abdomen and under tail-coverts are greyish-buff in *A. brasiliensis*; blackish-grey in *A. vittata*.

The fourteen rectrices are in both forms of the same black colour with a green sheen, but in the live specimens studied I noticed a marked difference in shape, the tips being much more pointed in *A. brasiliensis* and more rounded in *A. vittata*; this distinction, however, may be only an individual or casual one.

A very marked difference is to be noticed in the feathers

of the rump and sides of the body. In the Brazilian Teal drake we find pale brownish flank-feathers, between which appears a very sharply defined saddle or rump-patch of velvety-black colour with a greenish-blue reflection. The middle of the back and rump is of the same colour and sheen in Schuyl's Teal, but the sides are also black or blackish, so that the transition is quite gradual with the colour of the middle parts. The same applies to the colour of the mantle, pale olive-brown in the Brazilian species, but velvet-blackish in the new Teal. This gives to the latter bird its prominent specific character—together with its larger size—when seen from a distance.

Female.—The Schuyl's Teal is also a larger, stouter, and darker bird in general appearance than the duck Brazilian Teal. Noticeable differences are the larger extent of the white spots on the face, especially on the chin. The bird has also definite transversal dark stripes on the breast and sides, instead of the uniform olive-buff with small round dark spots found in the female *A. brasiliensis*. The upper parts of breast are a rich chestnut-brown, the lower parts whitish.

Soft parts.—As in the typical species, the iris is dark brown, but the colour of the upper mandible is rather orange-red, against the carmine-red or dark pinkish of *A. brasiliensis* (male). In both forms the nail (or tip) of the bill is horny-brown, more greyish in *A. vittata*, but the actual shape of the nail differs somewhat in its posterior edge, being rather rounded in *A. brasiliensis* and more angular in *A. vittata*.

The coral-red colour of the feet is more pinkish in the Brazilian species, more orange-red in *A. vittata*.

Distribution.—Argentine Republic, south of Buenos Ayres ; probably coastal districts.

Type.—The above description is taken from live birds of both species, the types of the new *Amazonetta vittata* being at present in my possession.

Measurements.—The total length seems well above 17 inches, which appears to be the maximum size of the Brazilian Teal. Culmen a little less than 2 inches, versus 1·75 in Brazilian Teal.

Remarks.—The general distribution of *A. brasiliensis*

includes most of South America, from " New Granada and Guiana to Magellan Straits " (Salvadori) ; however, it is possible that the specimens identified as such and originating from the most southerly parts of that range should be included in the new species.

Dr. J. M. Derscheid also sent the following note on the systematic position of *Amazonetta* and *Calonetta* :—

Having studied for years the behaviour of both the ordinary Brazilian Teal and of the Ring-necked Teal in captivity, Mr. Schuyl and myself have been impressed by the identity in the display of these two species during the breeding season.

However, Monsieur J. Delacour, in his recent and most interesting study on the classification of the Anatidæ, has emphasized some likeness between the Brazilian Teal and his Cairininæ or " Perching Ducks," making to that effect his new genus "*Aixopsis* " (=*Amazonetta* v. Boetticher). On the other hand, the Ring-necked Teal is retained in the subfamily of Anatinæ, or true surface-feeding Ducks, but in a special subgenus of its own, *Calonetta* (type *Anas leucophrys* Vieillot= *Nettion torquatum*).

Dr. von Boetticher has already (1937) expressed his opinion that these two small South American Teals are too nearly related to be separated in distinct subfamilies ; he reminds us that these birds sometimes interbreed.

If we notice that the Ring-necked Teal shares with the Brazilian Teal and with the species here described the characters of having black-shouldered wings in both sexes (quite unique among Teals), uniformly light-coloured cheeks in the males and white-spotted faces in the females, different colouring of bill and feet (at least in the females), small size, and perching habits, we cannot help thinking that they must be nearly related. For years we have both made a close study of the Brazilian Teal and of the Ring-necked Teal in captivity, without finding any serious difference in their behaviour. Moreover, their geographical distribution seems to us a serious confirmation of their relationship. We must confess that we fail to see any—even distant—likeness between the Ring-necked Teal and the Pochards (Nyrocinæ), as suggested by

Delacour, but it is quite possible that he is right in suspecting a possibly close affinity between our Ring-necked Teal and the little-known *Heteronetta atricapilla*.

After close inspection of both species of *Amazonetta* I fail likewise to be impressed by the alleged length of the tail or anterior position of the leg, so that I do not feel that the Brazilian Teal and its congeners should be considered as closer relations to the genus *Aix* (Carolina and Mandarin Ducks) than, for instance, the Australian Maned Goose (*Chenonetta jubata*).

In conclusion, I think that the Neotropical Teals mentioned above should be considered as belonging to one and the same genus, let us say the "Black-winged Teals" (*Amazonetta*), just as we have the (chiefly Holarctic) Blue-winged Teals (*Querquedula querquedula*, *Q. discors*, *Q. cyanoptera*, and probably all the Shovellers).

The generic characters of *Amazonetta* would thus be: velvety-black shoulders, metallic-green speculum, sexual dimorphism, no eclipse, white-spotted facial pattern in females, tail rather long and wide, perching habits, and probably similar nesting habits (in holes).

The term *Calonetta* could be retained as subgeneric for the Ring-necked Teal characterized by white axillary feathers, blue bill in male, and the peculiar position of the white wing-patch on the greater wing-coverts in both sexes.

Only species: *Amazonetta* (*Calonetta*) *leucophrys* Vieillot, 1816 (Paraguay). The true *Amazonetta* would then include the two other species, viz.:—The Brazilian Teal (*Amazonetta brasiliensis* Gmelin, 1779) (Brazil) and Schuyl's Teal (*Amazonetta vittata* Derscheid) (Argentine, S. of Buenos Ayres).

I hope to be able, in the near future, to give some details of the behaviour and perhaps the breeding habits of the last-named bird in captivity.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following description of a new subspecies of Shallow-forktailed Petrel:—

Cymochorea castro kumagai, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *C. castro cryptoleucura* in its general smaller measurements, the average of twenty-six

skins of both sexes being: wing 151·3; tail 73·5; culmen 15·1; tarsus 21·5; middle toe and claw 23·1 mm.

Distribution.—Japan and adjacent waters.

Type.—A male in my collection, collected by Mr. S. Kumagai, in July 1936, at Hideshima, Hondo, Japan.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 151; tail 70; culmen 15; tarsus 21; middle toe and claw 22 mm.

Young.—Greyish-black; the white upper tail-coverts appear as the down wears off.

Nest.—The nesting burrows measure at their entrance from between 61–124 by 33·5–81 mm. Average measurement of thirty being 98 by 74 mm.

Egg.—Clutch one: white with or without reddish-brown spots at the larger end. The average measurements of eighteen eggs being 33 by 24: the extremes are 33×23·2; 32×25 and 32×24·5, 35×24.

Length of incubation.—About thirty days.

Breeding season.—July 7 to August 4, when the young were piping. No eggs seen on September 4.

Breeding locality.—Hideshima and Sanganjima, Hondo, Japan.

Remarks.—I am much obliged to Dr. Kuroda for his translation of Kumagai's article on the above form, taken from 'Tori,' no. 42, May 1936.

Mr. R. E. Moreau sent the following description of a new subspecies :—

Erythropygia barbata greenwayi, subsp. nov.

Description.—Larger and less red-brown than either *E. b. quadrivirgata* Reichenow or *E. b. rovumæ* Grote; and having the head, mantle, wing-coverts, and inner secondaries greyer; and the rump, breast, and flanks paler.

Distribution.—The thick bush on Mafia Island.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Collected by an African, Charles, on Mafia Island, Tanganyika Territory, on August 11, 1937. Collector's no. 4316. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1938.1.4.1.

Measurements.—Wing 89, culmen 19, tail 82 mm.

Remarks.—Herr Hermann Grote has very kindly compared the Mafia bird with the East African specimens in the Berlin Museum. He finds that it is "much greyer" than any of them, and notes also its outstanding size. The new subspecies is named in honour of Mr. J. P. Greenway, of the East African Agricultural Research Station, who during a recent botanical survey on Mafia interested himself in obtaining a collection of birds from that neglected island.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following descriptions of two new races :—

(1) **Colius striatus rhodesiæ,** subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar in colour and size to *Colius striatus minor* Cabanis ; but has the feet and toes rose-pink instead of dark wine-colour.

Distribution.—Chirinda and Umtali, eastern Southern Rhodesia.

Type.—In the British Museum. Adult Male. Umtali, Southern Rhodesia, collected by A. W. Vincent on February 20, 1935 (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1937.1.15.2.)

Measurements of Type.—Wing 91 ; culmen 13 ; tail 203 ; tarsus 21 mm.

Soft parts of Type.—Iris dark brown ; bill, upper mandible black, lower white horn ; feet rose-pink.

Remarks.—The sixteen specimens of this new race in the British Museum collection had been placed under *Colius striatus minor.*

(2) **Lybius leucocephalus lynesi,** subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Lybius leucocephalus albicauda* Shelley, but has the basal half of the tail black, and usually a greater extent of white on the breast and upper belly.

Distribution.—The Dodoma and Iringa Districts of Tanganyika Territory.

Type.—In the British Museum, no. 2553, Iringa, Tanganyika Territory, January 13, 1932, collected by Admiral H. Lynes (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1932.5.10.208).

Measurements of Type.—Wing 98 ; culmen 25 ; tail 55 ; tarsus 25 mm.

Remarks.—We agree with Lynes, J. f. O. 1934, p. 64, as to the subspecific arrangement of these black and white Barbets. On p. 65, under *L. senex*, "Below, all black" is an obvious mistake for Below, all white.

The series in the British Museum shows that *L. l. albicauda* has an all white tail in the adult and a pied tail in the young bird; and that *L. l. lynesi* has a pied tail in the adult and an all black tail in the young bird.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed also sent the following three notes :—

(1) On the Distribution of *Colius leucocephalus leucocephalus* Reichenow, Orn. Cent. 1879, p. 114 : Kinakomba, Tana River, eastern Kenya Colony, and *Colius leucocephalus turneri* van Someren, Bull. B. O. C., xl. 1919, p. 27 : Archer's Post, northern Guaso Nyiro, Kenya Colony.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 266, gives the distribution of *C. l. leucocephalus* as country south of Kilimanjaro. Friedmann, Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1930, p. 330, points out that Sclater "leaves the type-locality stranded" outside his distributional area. Van Someren has incorrectly stated in Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 71, that the range of the typical bird is the Teita country and south of Kilimanjaro.

Our study of the question and the specimens in the British Museum collection shows that actually the typical bird is confined to a narrow area, and that the race has a wide distribution, as follows :—

Colius leucocephalus leucocephalus Reichenow.

Distribution.—Eastern Kenya Colony, *i. e*, the valley of the Tana River (Kinakomba), to the eastern Guaso Nyiro (Lugwa, 60 miles west of the Lorian Swamp, and the Lorian Swamp area).

Colius leucocephalus turneri van Someren.

Distribution.—North-western Italian Somaliland to western and southern Kenya Colony and north-eastern Tanganyika Territory.

(2) On the Status of *Lybius tsanæ* (O. Grant), Bull. B. O. C. xiii. 1902, p. 29 : Zegi, Lake Tana, north-western Abyssinia.

This is treated as a species in the Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 274, and Cheesman and Sclater, Ibis, 1935, p. 327, remarks on the fact that the former did not obtain specimens of it. We have carefully compared the type, which is in the British Museum, with a series of adult *Lybius undatus undatus* Rüppell, and with young birds of *Lybius undatus salvadorii* Neumann, *L. u. thiogaster* Neumann, and *L. u. leucogenys* Blundell and Lovat, and there is no doubt whatever that it is a young bird having a wholly black forehead. Therefore *Lybius tsanæ* O. Grant becomes a synonym of *Lybius undatus undatus* (Rüppell), N. Wirbelth. Vög. 1837, pp. 52, 62, pl. 20 : Simien Province, northern Abyssinia.

(3) On the Type-locality of *Lybius guifsobalito* Hermann.

All authors give Abyssinia only. Hermann, Tab. Aff. Anim. 1783, p. 217, note, states that the specimen on which this name was founded was collected by Bruce. Bruce ('Source of the Nile,' vols. i.–v., 1813) travelled from Massawa to the Abbai and thence to Sennar. The type-locality of *Lybius guifsobalito* Hermann can be fixed as northern Abyssinia.

9 APR 1938
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCXI.

The four-hundred-and-sixth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, February 9, 1938.

Chairman : Mr. G. M. Mathews.

Members present :—Miss C. M. Acland ; Dr. D. Bannerman ; Miss P. Barclay-Smith ; F. J. F. Barrington ; Mrs. E. S. Charles ; Hon. G. L. Charteris ; J. Delacour ; Miss J. M. Ferrier ; H. A. Gilbert ; Miss E. M. Godman ; Capt. C. H. B. Grant (*Editor*) ; B. Guy Harrison ; Dr. J. M. Harrison ; R. E. Heath ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; N. B. Kinnear ; Miss E. P. Leach ; Dr. P. R. Lowe ; Rear-Admiral H. Lynes ; C. W. Mackworth-Praed ; J. H. McNeile ; Lieut.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath ; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr ; J. G. Mavrogordato ; C. Oldham ; H. J. R. Pease ; H. Leyborne Popham ; Miss G. M. Rhodes ; Dr. B. B. Rivière ; D. Seth-Smith ; Major A. G. L. Sladen (*Hon. Treas.*) ; Col. R. Sparrow (*Vice-Chairman*) ; C. R. Stonor ; Marquess of Tavistock ; Miss D. L. Taylor ; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson (*Hon. Sec.*) ; B. W. Tucker ; Miss E. L. Turner ; Mrs. H. W. Boyd Watt ; C. M. N. White ; H. F. Witherby ; C. de Worms.

Guests :—Mrs. H. A. Gilbert ; Miss C. E. Godman ; A. C. Howard ; S. Jenyns ; Hon. Sholto Mackenzie ; Mrs. Mackworth-Praed ; Mrs. B. B. Rivière ; L. S. V. Venables.

Members, 43 ; Guests, 8.

Dr. P. Manson-Bahr exhibited the tarsus of a Snipe shot in Yorkshire on January 26, 1938, and remarked :—

The bird must have been wounded in the previous year and had survived. When killed it was in excellent condition. The tarsus had been almost severed and had joined up by a bridge of tissue; it was a remarkable example of nature's surgery.

M. Jean Delacour gave the following short account of his recent cruise with Lord Moyne on the yacht ' Rosaura ' :—

We visited Central and S. America and some of the Bahamas, Cap Haitien, the northern coast of Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Swan Island, and the Bay Islands of Honduras, the last two at some length, and collections were made.

From Belize, British Honduras, the party flew to Yucatan and Guatemala. In this last country they were lucky enough to watch Quetzals, at an elevation of 7000 feet, near Chichicastenango, on a very cold morning—a heavy frost had been experienced at night. Three birds crossed the road and settled in some pine trees, where they moved about in the same way as other Trogons.

The Panama Canal was next visited, including the delightful natural reserve of Barro Colorado Island. A few days were spent in Venezuela, Granada, Tobago, and Trinidad. On Little Tobago, among the very fine vegetation of the hills, several of the introduced Greater Birds of Paradise were seen and many more heard. A particularly fine cock was displaying high up in a tree and quarrelling with two Giant Cassiques. It is nearly 36 years ago that this introduction was effected, and it can be considered a success. Motmots and Sugar-Birds (*Cœreba*) are extraordinarily abundant and tame on the island, but the Birds of Paradise remain very wild.

A ten days' stay in British Guiana, particularly at Kaieteur Falls and up the Barima River, proved very interesting.

The yacht also called at Para and at Pernambuco and also at St. Paul Rocks, in the middle of the Atlantic, where the two species of *Anous* and *Sula leucogaster* live and breed.

In Africa the Gambia River proved very attractive with its large bird population.

The party left 'Rosaura' at Dakar, travelling overland by car, through Senegal and the French Sudan, to Gao, a long but interesting trip. Bird life was plentiful, the Bustards being particularly numerous. Several Saville's Bustards, among others, were seen and one collected. The Sahara desert was crossed in motors and the party flew home from Colomb-Bechar.

M. Jean Delacour, Secretary of the IX. International Ornithological Congress, announced that preparations are being actively made and that the Congress will be well attended. Members are requested to call at the registration office, Hôtel des Sociétés Savantes, rue St. Lô, Rouen, on the afternoon of Sunday, May 8, or the morning of Monday, May 9, where they may pay their registration fees and will receive their badges, invitations, programmes, etc. All arrangements for travel, hotel reservations, and excursions are in the hands of Messrs. Wagons Lits/Cook, and very great reductions on all rates have been obtained for members of the Congress. From London to Rouen, Paris, the Carmargue, and return the inclusive cost will amount to about £15 to £22 per person, according to class of travel and hotel. Members are advised to communicate with Messrs. Thomas Cook, Berkeley Street, London, W. 1, giving as reference P.O.D. 8449/NS. A circular giving particulars is included in the 'Bulletin.' M. Delacour particularly requests that all intending to become members of the Congress shall send their names to him at Chateau de Clères, Seine Inférieure, France, as soon as possible, as this will greatly facilitate the organization of the Congress.

Mr. Hugh Birckhead sent the following change of name :—

In my recent paper on the birds of the Sage–West China Expedition I gave the name *Urocissa erythrorhyncha cærulea* to a new race from north-western Yunnan. This name

is unfortunately preoccupied, and I therefore propose

Urocissa erythrorhyncha alticola, nom nov.,

for *Urocissa erythrorhyncha cærulea* Birckhead, 'American Museum Novitates,' no. 966, 1937, p. 13; not *Urocissa cærulea* Gould (Formosa), P. Z. S. 1862, p. 282.

Mr. C. M. N. White sent the following note on *Coracina novæhollandiæ* (Gm.) :—

Study of the available material, together with the literature, seems to show that no comprehensive examination of the whole range of this Cuckoo-Shrike has been made. From my work upon it I can only define two races.

Coracina novæhollandiæ novæhollandiæ (Gm.).

Turdus novæhollandiæ Gmelin, Syst. Nat. i. pt. ii. 1789, p. 814: Nova Hollandia=Adventure Bay, Tasmania, of which *Coracina melanops tasmanica* Mathews, Bull. B. O. C. xxvii. 1911, p. 100: Tasmania, is a synonym.

Characters.—Bill much smaller and shorter—length from anterior edge of nostril to tip 14–16 mm., once 17 mm. (nine measured). Wing of 3 ♂♂, 197–207; 2 ♀♀, 186, 193; 4 unsexed, 197–205 mm.

In Tasmania mainly a resident, with local movements and flocking in winter, as shown by Littler. It breeds there from October to December. Sporadic movements to the adjacent mainland occur, as shown by examples from Victoria (♀ imm., Caldermeade, 11. iv.) and from South Australia. Mathews quotes A. G. Campbell that some from Port Phillip were of this race, and Mellor and White that birds from Flinders Island were likewise *C. n. novæhollandiæ*. There is no evidence that this race breeds on the mainland, and the absence of material of it from farther north indicates that its migrations are slight and perhaps irregular.

There is one exception, an example from Dorawaida, S.E. New Guinea (Aug. 1903; coll. by F. R. Barton). This is a small-billed bird with a wing of 174 mm. Mayr and Rand (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. lxxvii. 1937, p. 100) record a male from Port Moresby in October which had

a very small bill and was dark in colour—wing 182 mm. The Dorawaida bird has a rather dark breast, and in view of the slight migration of *C. n. novæhollandiæ* it is very difficult to treat them as stragglers of that race. In addition they are very small and rather dark. I believe they may represent an unnamed race resident in New Guinea.

Range.—Tasmania, where mainly resident, Flinders Island, and with some migration to adjacent area of Victoria and S. Australia. A very similar bird has been recorded in New Guinea.

CORACINA NOVÆHOLLANDIÆ MELANOPS (Lath.).

Corvus melanops Latham, Index Orn. Suppl. p. 24, 1801: Sydney.

Synonyms are :—*Coracina n. westralensis* Mathews, Nov. Zool. xviii. 1912, p. 326: Wilson's Inlet, S.W. Australia; *C. n. connectens* id., ib.: Inkerman, Queensland; *C. n. subpallida* id., ib.: Strelly River, N.W. Australia; *C. n. didimus* id., Austr. Av. Rec. i. pt. 2, p. 42: Melville Island; *C. n. kuehni* Hartert, Bull. B. O. C. xxxvi. 1916, p. 65: Tual, Little Key Island.

Characters.—Bill much larger and stronger—length 17–21 mm. Wing: 10 ♂♂, 195–209 mm.; 10 ♀♀, 190–205 mm. Unsexed birds vary from 193 to 207 mm. Females resemble males, but average smaller. Immatures run from 180 to 195 mm., larger birds mostly males. The above series includes birds from Victoria, New South Wales, S. Australia, S.W. Australia, and Queensland. I cannot find any characters to subdivide this series; some individuals from S.W. Australia look rather pale, but it is not constant, and may be partly due to bleaching.

In Eastern Australia, though present throughout the year, it is much more numerous in spring and summer (*cf.* North). Breeding occurs September–December, and there is information of a northward movement of many birds. In S.W. Australia Alexander recorded it as resident on the Swan River, breeding also September–November. In Queensland Campbell and Barnard state that they first noted it in July, and at Cape York and the Gulf of Carpentaria Macgillivray found

it only in winter. It seems, therefore, that in N. Queensland and the Gulf it is only a winter visitor or passage-migrant.

In N.W. Australia Rogers recorded it as resident in the Kimberley area and Carter found it breeding on the Gascoyne River in July and August. Hartert examined birds in April from the South Alligator River and Nullgine, and thought the latter very pale. Mathews described *C. n. subpallida* as small and pale. I have seen a male from the Gascoyne River (wing 190) which is very pale, and a female from Victoria River, N.W. Australia (wing 186 mm.), which might support this. Unfortunately another female has a wing of 195 and an immature bird 193 mm. All are rather badly worn, which may account for their colour. The larger birds may be migrants, the smaller a breeding race, but from my material I can only indicate the probable characters, and do not therefore uphold the race. *C. n. didimus* is merely described from an immature.

Outside Australia the species occurs as a winter migrant. This was clearly pointed out by Stresemann (Nov. Zool. xxi. 1914, p. 122), but Hartert in naming *C. n. kuehni* in 1916 ignores his remarks. The type of *C. n. kuehni* was obtained 1. x. 97, and was thought to occur in the Key Islands, Tiandu, Taam, Sula Besi, and Aru Islands. I have seen Aru Islands birds which do not support it, and I do not think its supposed characters of any value. I have analyzed in all dates of about 100 birds (either examined or from literature) from the extra-Australian range. Mayr and Rand (*l. c.*) quote May 17 to October 13 as their range of dates from S.E. New Guinea, and this would cover the above dates very well. There are exceptions : Luang, Moa, Letti (all November), but many of these are immatures, as pointed out by Stresemann ; Taam (2 adults, February), which might be evidence to support *C. n. kuehni* or might be merely very early migrants. Eichhorn recorded it as first appearing at Talasea, New Britain, in April, and collected it in June at Witu. In Damar, where one was collected during the voyage of the ' Penguin,' Kühn specifically records that he did not see it in November–December. I think all the evidence points, therefore, to its being only a winter migrant.

Range.—Breeds in Australia, except N. Queensland ; resident in western part, partly migratory in east. Winter quarters :— New Guinea, Louisiade, and d'Entrecasteaux Islands, Misol, Waigeu, Aru Islands, Key Islands, Timor-laut, South-East and South-West Islands, Timor, Sumba, Flores, Madu, Seran, Amboina, Sula, Peling, New Britain, and adjacent islands ; straggler to New Zealand.

Note on plumages.

Stresemann (*l. c.*) discussed these and concluded that the adults were alike. This followed North and others and contradicted Salvadori and Reichenow. Since then, however, it appears that the view that the female resembles the immature has revived. Hartert recorded the type of *C. n. kuehni* as " ♂ [not ♀ !] ad.," which indicates that he disagreed with the sexing, and Mayr and Rand (*l. c.*) doubt the sexing of their birds and state that they cannot work out the difference between females and immatures of either sex, which can only mean that they thought these were alike. There are, however, too many birds with black throats sexed as females for this to be purely an error, and these females average smaller.

The immature exhibits great variation in the colour of the throat, which may be nearly uniform white, white with grey bars, grey with lighter bars, or even dusky with lighter bars. Only the ear-coverts, orbital area, and lores are black. Five birds show that this is moulted directly to the adult plumage.

There are also two peculiar individuals which represent probably an " advanced " immature plumage. One is from Victoria ; the front shows some development of black feathers and the cheeks and throat are suffused with blackish-grey, with no white barring. Thus it resembles very closely the adult, but is not so deep black. The other is from St. Aignan Island (August), and is similar but rather greyer on the throat and face. Both have the base of the bill brownish, as in immatures, and in view of the variation in immatures I think it better to treat these birds as an advanced phase of immature plumage. Neither is moulting. I cannot separate the sexes of immatures, except sometimes by size.

Dr. David A. Bannerman sent the following description of a new race of the Grey Cuckoo-Shrike:—

Coracina cæsia okuensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *C. c. preussi* in the more sooty-grey coloration of the whole plumage in both sexes; the entire throat of the male is black, which colour overspreads the upper part of the breast. Eye brownish-black, bill and feet black.

Distribution.—Restricted to the Oku district (*c.* 7000 feet) of the Cameroon highlands; another race, *C. c. preussi*, taking its place at lower altitudes.

Type.—In the British Museum. Adult male: Oku, west of Kumbo, Cameroons (7000 feet), February 14, 1925; collected by G. L. Bates. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1926.8.8.611.

Measurements.—Bill, male 15, female 14; wing, male 117, female 112; tail 100; tarsus 22 mm.

Remarks.—This is one of several species represented by a local race in the wooded ravines of the Oku district, all exhibiting the same sombre colouring.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear forwarded the following description of a new Babbler collected by Messrs. Ludlow and Sherriff in S.E. Tibet:—

Babax lanceolatus lumsdeni, subsp. nov.

Description.—Very similar to *B. l. waddelli* Dresser, but with a smaller bill and generally darker on the upper side; the shaft-streaks of the feathers on the underparts are much darker, almost blackish-brown, and the margins greyer, lacking the buffish tinge.

Distribution.—S.E. Tibet between the Subansiri River and the Tsangpo River, long. 92′ 50″ and 94′.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male: Le La, between Chayul Dzong and Charme, in the Charme District, S.E. Tibet, May 7, 1936; collected by Messrs. F. Ludlow and G. Sherriff. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1937.1.17.240.

Measurements.—

2 ♂♂, 136–137; bill from skull 34·3–36 mm.

2 ♀♀, 131–133; bill from skull 31–34·5 mm.

B. l. waddelli :

3 ♂♂, 136–142 ; bill from skull 38–39 mm.

5 ♀♀, 128–135 ; bill from skull 36–39 mm.

Remarks.—Specimens examined : four adults and two juveniles of *B. l. lumsdeni* and eight specimens of *B. l. waddelli* from Gyantse. There is also one specimen in the Museum collected by Col. F. M. Bailey in August 1931 at Luti, 10,000 feet, on the Tsangpo.

Named in honour of Dr. K. Lumsden, who accompanied Messrs. Ludlow and Sherriff.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear also sent the following communication on the occurrence of the Cape Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris capensis* Schlegel) in Northern Rhodesia :—

Through the kindness of Capt. C. R. P. Henderson the Museum has received a skin of the above bird from Matonga Island, Bangweolo Swamps, Northern Rhodesia. The bird was obtained by Mr. David Ross on November 28, 1937, who said he was informed by the natives that it was not numerous, and was much prized as food.

This race does not appear to have been recorded north of the Zambesi.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following note on the status of *Viridibucco simplex* (Fischer & Reichenow), J. f. O. 1884, p. 180 : Pangani River, north-eastern Tanganyika Territory, and *Viridibucco leucomystax* (Sharpe), Ibis, 1892, p. 310 : Sotik, south-western Kenya Colony :—

In Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 280, Sclater makes *V. leucomystax* a race of *V. simplex* ; but in ' The Ibis,' 1932, p. 663, inclines to the opinion that *V. leucomystax* is the male of *V. simplex*. Since then the British Museum has acquired several more specimens, so that the collection now contains thirteen adult males, fifteen adult females, a young male, and a young female of *V. leucomystax*, all of which have the white moustachial stripe, and seven specimens of *V. simplex*, one male, five females, and one unsexed, all of which have no moustachial stripe.

This fresh evidence supports the view expressed by Lynes, J. f. O. 1934, p. 66, and as both occur at Amani they must be treated as distinct species. The known distribution of the two species is as follows :—

Viridibucco simplex (Fisch. & Reichw.). Coastal areas of Kenya Colony and Tanganyika Territory, between Seyidi Province and Central Railway line (as far inland as Amani, Morogoro, and Pugu Hills), south to southern Nyasaland (Mt. Mangoche) ; Zanzibar.

Viridibucco leucomystax (Sharpe). From Central Kenya Colony through north-eastern and central Tanganyika Territory to western Nyasaland (Nchisi Hill, Kota Kota, and Dedza).

APR 1938
RCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCXII.

The four-hundred-and-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at the house of the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, March 9, 1938, preceded by a Dinner at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, in conjunction with the Annual Dinner of the British Onithologists' Union.

Dr. Percy R. Lowe, the President of the B. O. U., took the Chair during the Dinner, and Mr. G. M. Mathews Chairman of the Club, during the subsequent proceedings.

Members of the B. O. C. :—Miss C. M. Acland ; W. B. Alexander ; Miss P. Barclay-Smith ; Miss M. G. S. Best ; G. B. Blaker ; A. W. Boyd ; Miss B. A. Carter ; Mrs. E. Stafford Charles ; Hon. G. L. Charteris ; H. P. O. Cleave ; A. Ezra ; Miss J. M. Ferrier ; J. M. M. Fisher ; H. A. Gilbert ; A. G. Glenister ; Miss E. M. Godman ; Capt. C. H. B. Grant (*Editor*) ; Mrs. T. E. Hodgkin ; Dr. K. Jordan ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; N. B. Kinnear ; J. Spedan Lewis ; Miss C. Longfield ; Dr. G. Carmichael Low ; Rear-Admiral H. Lynes ; C. W. Mackworth-Praed ; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr ; J. G. Mavrogordato ; Dr. W. N. May ; E. M. Nicholson ; C. A. Norris ; B. B. Osmaston ; R. H. W. Pakenham ; C. W. G. Paulson ; H. J. R. Pease ; Miss G. M. Rhodes ; Dr. B. B. Rivière ; W. L. Sclater ; Major M. H. Simonds ; Major A. G. L. Sladen (*Hon. Treas.*) ; J. W. C. Stares ; Mrs. R. Steuart ; Marquess of Tavistock ; Miss D. L. Taylor ; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson

(*Hon. Sec.*) ; B. W. Tucker ; Miss E. L. Turner ; W. E. Wait ; Mrs. H. W. Boyd Watt ; H. Whistler ; C. M. N. White ; H. F. Witherby ; C. de Worms.

Members of the B. O. U. :—E. G. Bird ; J. Buxton ; H. G. Calkin ; H. V. Casson ; R. Chislett ; E. Cohen ; G. Courtney-Coffey ; A. J. Currie ; R. Preston Donaldson ; F. H. Edmondson ; C. G. des Forges ; A. K. Gibbon ; J. C. Harrison ; A. G. Haworth ; Miss A. Hibbert-Ware ; P. F. Holmes ; E. J. Hosking ; Mrs. H. M. Rait Kerr ; Mrs. F. E. Lemon ; E. S. May ; D. I. Molteno ; A. S. Phillips ; Miss F. Pitt ; Miss D. T. Raikes ; B. B. Roberts ; Sir M. C. Seton ; Dr. F. G. Swayne ; I. M. Thomson ; N. Tracy ; Miss J. H. Wright.

Guests of the Club :—Mrs. Seton Gordon ; H. S. Thompson ; G. K. Yeates.

Guests :—Mrs. M. F. Badham ; Mrs. F. G. Bird ; E. Blatch ; W. E. Brooks ; Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Buxton ; Mrs. H. G. Calkin ; Miss E. Carter ; S. Carter ; E. Falkland Cary ; Miss E. F. Chawner ; Mrs. R. Chislett ; Mrs. E. Cohen ; Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Collenette ; R. Collett ; Mrs. R. Preston Donaldson ; E. Flack ; H. Gaske ; Mrs. H. A. Gilbert ; Miss C. E. Godman ; Miss L. P. Grant ; Mrs. P. Harrison ; Mrs. A. G. Haworth ; M. L. Horn ; A. E. Housman ; Miss Hulse ; M. Hyndman ; C. James ; T. Jones ; Miss H. Jordan ; Miss M. Kyrle ; Miss H. G. Lemmon ; Capt. and Mrs. Stewart Liberty ; Mrs. Percy R. Lowe ; Miss Lynes ; Mrs. C. W. Mackworth-Praed ; D. H. Manson-Bahr ; Mr. and Mrs. P. Martin ; C. M. May ; D. M. Murray-Rust ; Dr. A. P. Norman ; C. Pease ; W. H. Perrett ; Mrs. A. S. Phillips ; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Schubart ; Mrs. W. L. Sclater ; Miss R. Seth-Smith ; Mrs. M. H. Simonds ; Miss D. Sleigh ; J. W. H. Stares ; Mrs. A. L. Thomson ; Miss B. Thomson ; Miss B. Tracy ; Mrs. B. W. Tucker ; J. Vincent ; Miss J. Wait ; F. Wallace ; H. F. Wallace ; B. Weston ; Hon. Mrs. H. Whistler ; Miss U. Wingate ; Mrs. H. F. Witherby ; R. C. F. Witherby ; Mr. and Mrs. G. de Worms.

Members of the Club, 53 ; Members of the Union, 30 ; Guests of the Club, 3 ; Guests, 69 ; Total 155.

Mr. E. G. Bird exhibited a film, largely in colour, of birds in East Greenland. This included among other characteristic species Phalaropes swimming, the Knot on its nest, and the Long-tailed Skua in flight.

Mr. G. K. Yeates exhibited a number of slides illustrating the bird-life of the Camargue, with pictures of such birds as the Spectacled Warbler, Fan-tailed Warbler, Penduline Tit, Hoopoe, and Little Egret. A series of the Black-winged Stilt, showing the male and female changing places at the nest, was a notable item.

A film by Mr. H. W. Mackworth-Praed was exhibited by Mr. H. A. Gilbert. This showed Ducks of various species at Orielton, Pembrokeshire, and the working of the decoy there.

Mr. Brian Roberts exhibited slides of Antarctic birds, from photographs taken in Graham Land, the South Shetlands, South Georgia, and the Falkland Islands. Various species of Penguin and Petrel naturally predominated. Some pictures were included which showed large congregations of birds.

Mrs. Seton Gordon exhibited a film of sea-birds—various Auks, Gulls, etc.—at their breeding-places on the Scottish and Irish coasts. It also showed a Black-throated Diver at its nest.

Mr. Harry S. Thompson exhibited slides of sea-birds at the Farne Islands and elsewhere on the Northumbrian coast. The series included various species at their breeding places, and also such birds as Gannet and Fulmar in flight and Eider Ducks on the water.

A film by Captain C. W. R. Knight, on Hawks and Hawking, was exhibited by Miss P. Barclay-Smith. This had been put together for the recent international Sporting Exhibition at Berlin. It included some remarkable slow-motion studies.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear sent the following change of name :—

Stachyris guttata tonkinensis, nom. nov.,

for *Thringorhina guttata diluta* Kinnear, Bull. B. O. C. xlv. p. 11, 1924 : Thai Nien, Tonkin ; not *Stachyris poliocephala diluta* Robinson & Kloss, Ibis, 1919, p. 584 : Taiping, Perak, Malay States.

It is now generally accepted by most authors (see Chasen, Handlist, Malay, p. 220, 1935) that the genus *Thringorhina* is now included in the genus *Stachyris*. This being so *Thringorhina guttata diluta* is preoccupied by *Stachyris poliocephala diluta*.

I am indebted to Mr. H. G. Deignan, of the United States National Museum, for drawing my attention to this.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following six notes :—

(1) On the Status of *Barbatula kandti* Reichenow, O. M. 1903, p. 23 : Lake Kivu.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 283, in a footnote considers this race as doubtfully distinct from *Pogoniulus bilineatus jacksoni* (Sharpe), Bull. B. O. C. vii. 1897, p. vii : Mau, Kenya Colony. Through the kindness of Dr. Stresemann, of the Berlin Museum, we have had the loan of the type of *B. kandti* and find that it agrees perfectly with the type and series of *B. b. jacksoni* in the British Museum, and, therefore, *B. kandti* is a synonym of *P. b. jacksoni*.

(2) On the Status of *Barbatula leucolaima urungensis* Reichenow, O. M. 1915, p. 91 ; Kidungulu, Urungu.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 283, has placed this as a race of *Pogoniulus bilineatus* (Sund.). Through the kindness of Dr. Stresemann, of the Berlin Museum, we have had the loan of the type of *B. l. urungensis* and find that Reichenow was right in placing it under *P. leucolaima* (Verr.) ; and that it agrees perfectly with specimens of *Pogoniulus leucolaima nyansæ* (Neum.), J. f. O. 1907, p. 347 : Bukoba,

north-western Tanganyika Territory, in the British Museum collection. Therefore *B. l. urungensis* Reichw. becomes a synonym of *B. l. nyansæ* (Neum.) and the distribution of the latter is from the North-eastern Belgian Congo and Uganda to north-western Tanganyika Territory and southern end of Lake Tanganyika.

(3) On the Status of *Lybius guifsobalito ugandæ* Berger, O. M. 1907, p. 201 : Nimule, southern Sudan.

Claude Grant, Ibis, 1915, p. 438, considered that this race could be recognised, and Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 270, is also of this opinion and, therefore, does not agree with Van Someren's conclusions in Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 56. Friedmann, Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1930, p. 434, supports Van Someren, and we have, therefore, been compelled to re-examine the long series in the British Museum collection. These show that birds from Uganda have wings 81 to 85 mm. (including three specimens from Gulu 81 to 82) and that birds from Abyssinia have wings 82 to 92 mm. ; Sudan (Bor, Rejaf, Gondokoro) 81 to 83 mm. ; (Baro, Roseires, Fazogli) 81 to 88 mm.

Therefore although the largest Abyssinian measurement is 7 mm. longer than the largest Uganda, the smallest Abyssinian measurement is only 1 mm. above the smallest Uganda measurement. We are, therefore, of opinion that *Lybius guifsobalito ugandæ* Berger cannot be distinguished from the typical race, and must remain as a synonym of *Lybius guifsobalito* Hermann.

(4) On the Status of *Lybius melanopterus didymus* Grote, O. M. 1929, p. 75 : Lake Solole, Juba River Valley, southern Italian Somaliland.

The character given for this race is smaller, wing 86 to 91 mm. Specimens from Mozambique, the typical locality of *Lybius melanopterus* (Peters), Ber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, 1854, p. 134 : Moçimboa, Mozambique, Portuguese East Africa, have a wing-measurement of 88 to 95 mm. This is

sufficient to show that the only character given does not hold good, and, therefore, *L. m. didymus* Grote must become a synonym of *L. melanopterus* (Peters).

(5) On the Status of *Buccanodon belcheri* W. L. Sclater, Bull. B. O. C. xlvii. 1927, p. 85: Cholo Mt., Southern Nyasaland.

A comparison and study of *Buccanodon olivaceum* (Shelley), Ibis, 1880, p. 334, pl. vii.: Rabbai, near Mombasa, and *Buccanodon woodwardi* (Shelley), Bull. B. O. C. v. p. iii, 1895: Eshowe, Zululand, with the fine series of *Buccanodon belcheri* in the British Museum collection, shows that the latter must be included as a race of *Buccanodon olivaceum*, as has already been the case with *Buccanodon woodwardi*. These three birds bear a strong resemblance to each other, the dark crown is repeated in all three, and the golden green ear-coverts of *B. woodwardi* are to be found in *B. belcheri*.

(6) The correct type-locality of *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus shelleyi* Hartlaub, Ibis, 1886, p. 106, pl. v.

Under date February 7, 1938, Mr. E. Lort Phillips very kindly informs us that he obtained the type at the Goolis Mountains. The type-locality of *T. e. shelleyi* is, therefore, Goolis Mountains, British Somaliland.

16 MAY 1938
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCXIII.

The four-hundred-and eighth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, April 13, 1938.

Chairman : Mr. G. M. Mathews.

Members present:—Miss C. M. Acland ; Dr. D. A. Bannerman ; Miss P. Barclay-Smith ; F. J. F. Barrington ; Miss M. G. Best ; Hon. Guy L. Charteris ; A. Ezra ; Miss J. M. Ferrier ; Capt. C. H. B. Grant (*Editor*) ; Dr. J. M. Harrison ; P. A. D. Hollom ; Dr. E. Hopkinson ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; Miss E. P. Leach ; Dr. G. Carmichael Low ; Rear-Admiral H. Lynes ; T. H. McKittrick ; J. H. McNeile ; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr ; J. G. Mavrogordato ; Col. R. Meinertzhagen ; C. Oldham ; B. B. Osmaston ; Miss G. M. Rhodes ; W. L. Sclater ; D. Seth-Smith ; Major A. G. L. Sladen (*Hon. Treas.*) ; C. R. Stonor ; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson (*Hon. Sec.*) ; Miss E. L. Turner ; Mrs. H. W. Boyd Watt ; H. Whistler ; H. F. Witherby.

Guest of the Club :—Professor J. B. Cleland.

Guests :—L. H. Bowen ; Miss T. Clay ; Miss C. E. Crompton ; Miss B. N. Solly.

Members, 34 ; Guest of the Club, 1 ; Guests, 4.

Colonel R. MEINERTZHAGEN gave an interesting talk on his trip to Afghanistan, and showed some slides.

Dr. CARMICHAEL LOW showed a series of pheasants and a partridge showing perversion of plumage.

He said he did not propose to go into the full details and explanation, of sex reversal, as that had already been done by Tucker (Bull. B. O. C. xlviii. 1928, pp. 98–116) and himself (Bull. B. O. C. lii. 1932, pp. 88–94). The specimens shown to-night formed an addition to those exhibited on February 17, 1932 (*loc. cit.* p. 93), and he had also since that date examined the ovaries of a Cinanmon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) and a Tragopan (*Tragopan satyra*), both of which were assuming male plumage.

He could not unfortunately show the skins of either of these as he was not given them and he did not know now where they were. The changes, however, he remembered were very striking.

In all females showing male plumage degenerative or pathological changes were found in the ovary, and the idea was that when the ovarian hormone disappeared a testicular one, owing to the development of testicular tissue, took its place, and this resulted in the production of male feathering.

The reverse, a male taking on female feathering, was not so easy to explain. Tucker (Bull. B O. C. lii. 1932, p. 92) believes that such birds owe their peculiarities to a partially hermaphroditic or gynandromorphic condition, due to an inherent constitutional abnormality, and that they are not undergoing a transformation in any way analogous to the transformation towards the male type which surgical or pathological destruction of the ovary may produce in females.

In the list of pheasants shown on February 17, 1932, a male pheasant, No. 5, with some hen-like feathering, on dissection presented very small testicles, and these on section showed a considerable increase of the interstitial tissue with marked atrophy of the tubules. Dr. J. M. Harrison also exhibited two cock pheasants showing similar changes at the same meeting, and in both of his birds there was also

an increase of the interstitial tissue when compared with control material. In the example brought up to-night similar appearances were present, namely, very small testicles with microscopically an excess of fibrous tissue (interstitial increase) and a definite atrophy of the tubules. It looked then as if this atrophic condition might have something to do with the appearance of the hen feathering, not in the way of a female hormone forming, but by a diminution of the testicular hormone allowing dormant hermaphroditic or gynandromorphic tendencies, which had so far been kept under, to become more prominent. That extra-gonadal factors alone could influence the production of hen feathering seemed, to be proved, however, by the cases observed and recorded by Torrey & Horning (quoted by Harrison, *loc. cit.* p. 95), where young cockerels fed on thyroid gland developed such feathers. The subject was an interesting one, and more work on it might elucidate the exact cause.

Specimens exhibited.

1. Pheasant, female, assuming male plumage [The Hon. Guy Charteris : January 29, 1938. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1938.1.14.1].

Macroscopically : ovary small, shrunken, blackish colour.

Microscopically : early signs of degeneration present, acute congestion, but many of the follicles appear quite healthy and functional still. Medulla some evidence of proliferation, ? embryonic testicular tissue. No development of right gonad noted.

2. Pheasant, female, assuming male plumage [Dr. B. B. Rivière : December 31, 1937. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1938.1.2.1].

Macroscopically : ovary gone.

Microscopically : sections of ovarian site ; ovary replaced by fibrous tissue, some remains of black pigment still visible. No development in right gonad.

3. Partidge, female, assuming male plumage [Mr. G. E. Lodge].

Macroscopically : ovary small and degenerate looking, darkened in colour.

Microscopically: cortex extensively diseased, normal follicles gone, only the atrophied and fibrosed remains of one or two seen, cellular infiltration and fibrosis with much black pigment. Medulla shows evidence of embryonic testicular tissue developing. No sign of any development in right gonad.

4. Tragopan, female, assuming male plumage (*Tragopan satyra*).

Commencing atrophy of ovary, many of the follicles gone and replaced by fibrous tissue. Considerable deposit of black pigment. Large cyst at one end of organ.

5. Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*), female, assuming male plumage.

Macroscopically: only a tiny piece of the ovary left. Serial sections of the whole of this were cut.

Microscopically: follicles completely gone; replaced by dense fibrous tissue, with in places a cellular infiltration. No sign of medullary hyperplasia or formation of embryonic testicular tissue. No pigment.

Some primitive cellular development at right ovarian site, ? embryonic testicular tissue.

6. Pheasant, male, with some perversion of plumage [bought in Leadenhall Market, January 2, 1938, by Mr. J. W. Bertram Jones. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1938.2.2.1]; a certain amount of hen-feathering present. On examination the testes were found to be small, and sections of these examined microscopically showed considerable increase of the interstitial tissue with definite atrophy of the tubules. [Compare cock pheasant 5, Bull. B. O. C. lii. 1932, p. 94, and Dr. J. M. Harrison's two cock pheasants, *ibid.* p. 95.] Similar changes to those described above were found in all of those as well, which would seem to be suggestive.

Professor J. B. Cleland of Adelaide, after expressing his appreciation of the invitation to him, as representing, in a way, the Royal Australasian Onrithologists' Union and the South Australian Ornithological Association, to be present at the dinner and meeting, mentioned some aspects of bird life

in Australia that he thought might be of interest to members. In the dry central parts of Australia rain falls at irregular intervals. There may be many months, or even several years, between good general falls of rain. Isolated thunderstorms may, however, occur. Within a few days of the rain the vegetation springs up, flowers soon appear, and the birds start nesting. In these parts the nesting season seems to be entirely dependent on the occurrence of rain. It may occur at any period of the year if there has been a good fall, and may not occur for more than a year if there be a drought. Obviously the question of sunlight cannot be a prime factor in the breeding of these birds, but fresh vegetation and its accompaniments following the rain seem to be the stimulus that initiates the process. Perhaps some vitamin or other essential may be supplied by the green vegetation and the insect life that feeds on it. He also asked why do not certain Waders etc., which breed in Siberia and visit Australia during the northern winter (which is the Australian summer), breed in Australia if the factors of sunlight be the all-important one ? He hazarded the suggestion, apropos of a recent article in ' Nature ' dealing with the Ice-ages, that Australia had drifted, like other continental areas, and that at one time it had been in close contact with the southern part of the Siberian breeding grounds of these Waders. As the drift extended farther the separation became greater, but the birds still visited the same land-mass during the winter period. Finally, Australia reached a position south of the equator, with a reversal of the seasons, but the migration still continued, the breeding ground showing the true home of the Waders.

Professor Cleland mentioned the bird censuses that he had taken during expeditions by motor into the central parts of Australia. A fairly accurate estimate of the number of birds over a narrow strip of country, perhaps 100 miles long by one-eighth mile on each side of the track, could be made by noting down on a card the species seen and scoring marks against these, as in runs at cricket, as individuals were observed. He mentioned also the value of birds to the early explorers ; how Captain Sturt's life was saved by a pigeon being seen flying low at dusk and settling some distance

away ; Sturt assumed that it was making for water, followed it up, and his life and that of his horse were saved. Other explorers had been warned of the presence of natives by seeing crows hovering over their camps.

He mentioned having recently seen a Bare-eyed Cockatoo picking stick-fast fleas from the eyelids and nostrils of a tied-up dog with its great clumsy-looking bill and eating them, the dog contentedly submitting to the process. The large black cockatoos of Central Australia, with bills fashioned for tearing asunder bark and opening hard fruits, had had to turn their attention to other sources of food in that part of the world, as there were so few trees, and now collected minute grass seeds the size of grains of millet with this seemingly clumsy bill.

Monsieur J. Berlioz sent the following description of a new species belonging to the family Formicariidæ :—

Pithys castanea, sp. nov.

Description.—General shape and structure similar to the well-known *Pithys albifrons* (Gm.) ; but the whole plumage, except the head, above and below, wings and tail uniform chestnut (the same colour as the underparts of *P. albifrons*), scarcely lighter on the lower abdomen ; the remiges dusky blackish towards the tips, at least on the inner webs. Head all round deep black from the nasal feathers to the nape, and also the ear-coverts and upper part of the throat ; but the chin and sides of the head, including the lores, feathers round the eye, and a triangular space behind the latter whitish, sharply contrasted. Feathering of the face normal, with no elongated feathers on front and chin.

Distribution.—*P. castanea* seems to live side by side in the tropical zone of eastern Ecuador with *P. albifrons peruviana* Tacz., three specimens of which were sent from the same locality.

Soft parts.—Bill blackish, lighter towards the tip of the mandible. Legs and feet (in dried skin) light-coloured, probably reddish in life.

Type (in the Paris Museum).—Male, collected at Andoas, lower Pastaza, eastern Ecuador, on September 16, 1937.

Measurements of type.—Total length about 140 mm. (5·7 in.) ; wing 82 ; culmen 15 ; tarsus 23.

Remarks.—Generically this bird agrees entirely in structural and pigmentary character (plumage, legs, bill), as well as in pattern, with *Pithys albifrons*, a common bird of the Amazonian forest, known from Ecuador to Guiana. The two species are, however, quite different : *P. castanea* is obviously a larger bird than its ally, with uniform chestnut colour (without the grey back and wings of *P. albifrons*), a deep black cap, including the nasal feathers, and apparently (the specimen seems quite adult) nothing recalling the white elongated feathers characteristic of the other species.

The Marquess Hachisuka sent the following description of a new Kaleege Pheasant :—

Gennæus moffitti, sp. nov.

Description.—Entire plumage black, occiput and crest with a greenish metallic sheen, neck to upper tail-coverts with a deep metallic blue sheen towards the end of each feather. The rump and the upper tail-coverts have a deeper sheen at the end of each feather, which forms a scale-like appearance. Throat black ; upper neck shines like the back ; breast, abdomen, under tail-coverts, and thighs black, like the throat, without metallic sheen. Long flank-feathers black, with blue sheen toward their tips. White shaft-markings are apparent on the underside, these are distinctly white on the breast and smoky white on the thighs and abdomen. Primaries and wing-coverts black, but the latter have a greenish metallic tinge, like the occiput. Tail-feathers fourteen in number, with a greenish tinge on their webs.

Soft parts.—Naked skin around the eyes red. Bill, legs, and spur bluish horny.

Type.—Male, bred at W. L. Smith's Game Farm, Fair Oaks, California, in 1935, where it died July 22, 1936 (parents of the type imported from Calcutta) : No. 42443 in the

ornithological collection of the California Academy of Science ; original number, 1924, J. Moffitt.

Measurements of type.—Wing 235; longest crest-feather 78 ; tail 275 ; culmen 26 ; middle toe with claw 60 ; tarsus 80 ; spur 14 mm.

Remarks.—Mr. Leland Smith, of Fair Oaks, some fifteen miles out of Sacramento, California, is a well-known game-bird breeder who, in 1934, received in San Francisco from Calcutta a pair of unidentified Kaleege Pheasant. The plumage of the male is black, with abundant steel-blue sheen on the dorsal part. The abdominal part of the body is not so glossy, and the breast-feathers have very faint shaft-markings of a paler shade—that is to say, the bird resembles *G. melanotus*, but has the underside black, or like *G. horsfieldi* without the white rump.

The female differs from *G. melanotus* in having a plain buff-coloured throat, the central pair of tail-feathers more like *G. horsfieldi*, plain hair-brown without any markings. The pair bred successfully during the following year, 1935. The twenty-seven eggs laid are much darker than the eggs of *G. leucomelanos*, having more pinkish-buff and pointed ends with abundant white " chippings," as against the very pale buffish-tinted eggs, without the pinkish tinge, of the latter. Incubation period was twenty-three days, like that of all the other Himalayan Kaleeges. Two pairs of offspring reached maturity.

Both male and female offspring are, feather for feather, identical with their parents imported from India. The pair did not breed in 1936, but in 1937 Mr. Smith had been more successful. In May there were nine normally coloured chicks, and in October several young cocks assumed their adult plumage exactly the same as their male parent.

The colour of the chick is particularly important, because mutant chicks of both the golden and the common pheasants are chocolate-brown with yellow portions.

The breeding experiment of this Kaleege Pheasant not only proves that it breeds true to type, but that it is not a melanistic mutant, in spite of the cock's having a uniformly

dark plumage ; therefore I propose to name it in honour of Mr. James Moffitt, of the California Academy of Science.

In 1925 Dr. P. R. Lowe named a race of *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* after Mr. S. Baily. Three of these *P. b. bailyi* were brought over to England and bred in Mr. Baily's aviary. Dr. Lowe believes that it possibly inhabits northern Siam and was brought by boat down the river to Bangkok ; but this has not yet been confirmed, and the home of *P. b. bailyi* still remains to be discovered. A curious mistake occurred in Beebe's monograph in vol. iv. pl. lxxvii., where he depicts Baily's Peacock Pheasant and calls it *Polyplectron germaini*, a totally different species. The book was published several years previous to Lowe's discovery. So this new bird must have passed Beebe's hand, but escaped his critical eyes. Since the above article has been written in California I returned to Japan with a pair of 1937-born *G. moffitti* presented to me by Mr. L. Smith. It was much to my surprise to know that this new species is already well known to the Japanese ornithologists, that Prince Taka-Tsukasa, Messrs. Matsunaga, and Rihei Okada possessed and bred many of them within the last few years. I saw a pair at the Prince's aviary, and was told that since they first arrived at his aviary they had bred true to type for several generations.

As to the native habitat of this bird we know absolutely nothing other than that it was shipped from Calcutta. Judging from its plumage it should be found west of Burma, as it is far removed from *G. lineatus*, and somewhere close to eastern *G. leucomelanos* group in north-east of India and south of Tibet. This region is not a great distance from Calcutta, and if my surmise is correct I am astonished that many English sportsmen and naturalists have not reported this bird before. It is for this reason I describe *G. moffitti* as a full species until we know more about its native habitat.

We recall that *G. lineatus* was discovered by Latham in 1828 among aviary birds in India and its home was unknown. Nothing further was learned about it until 1831, when Vigors named it from a specimen sent from Malacca, but Malacca is some 500 miles south of the home of the Lineated Pheasant.

Colonel MEINERTZHAGEN sent the following descriptions of four new races :—

Ægypius monachus danieli, subsp. nov.

Description.—As *Æ. m. monachus*, but larger.

Distribution.—Chinese Turkestan, Mongolia, and North China. Birds from Russian Turkestan are intermediate.

Type.—In the Zoological Museum, Academy of Sciences, Leningrad, ad. ♀, Changai, Mongolia, June 1929.

Measurements of type.—Wing 840, culmen 61 mm.

Remarks.—I have examined all the specimens in the Berlin and Leningrad Museums, and have been sent, owing to the kindness of Dr. Mayr, the measurements of specimens in the American Museum of Natural History (including those in the Rothschild Collection), altogether forty-six specimens. The following is a table of measurements :—

No. of specimens.	*Locality.*	*Wing.*	*Culmen.*
1	Spain.	780	62
14	Caucasus, Terek, S. Urals, Rumania.	753–817	61–68
1	Aden.	782	62·5
1	East Persia.	780	62·5
2	S.W. Siberia.	780–791	59–61
13	Russian Turkestan.	770–856	57–67
2	Chinese Turkestan.	805–887	58–62
4	Mongolia.	801–840	61–67
1	Tsaidam.	816	56
2	Kukunor.	805–851	61·5

Named after my brother Daniel, who was especially interested in Accipitres. The type-locality of *A. m. monachus* has been fixed as Arabia (Ibis, 1934, p. 347), and the only possible name for an eastern form is *Vultur chincou* Daudin, Traité d'Orn ii. 1800, p. 12, ex Levaillant, Ois. d'Afr. taf. 12, from a captivity specimen which was said to have come from "China." It is a most unlikely source for such a large bird in the eighteenth century, especially as it only occurs in the parts of China which were most

inaccessible in those days. In any case, the type of *Vultur chincou* is indeterminable.

Parus rufonuchalis blanchardi, subsp. nov.

Description.—Mantle dark lead-grey, entirely lacking the greenish wash which is invariable in *P. r. rufonuchalis*. Black of underparts extending to abdomen, which sometimes occurs in *P. r. rufonuchalis*. Pectoral tufts almost absent. Nuchal patch almost absent.

Distribution.—Only known from the Gardez Forest, N.W. Afghanistan.

Type.—In the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, ♂, no. 70132. N.W. side of Gardez Forest, Afghanistan, June 3, 1935 ; collected by Mr. D. H. Blanchard.

Measurements.—Wing 79, culmen from skull 13 mm.

Remarks.—This remarkable though unique specimen is so very different from all known races that I have no hesitation in describing it. There is nothing like it in the British, Berlin, nor Leningrad Museums, nor in my own series. There are, however, in the British Museum three specimens collected by Mr. Douglas Carruthers in June 1908 from the Hissar Mts., 100 miles east of Samarkhand. In these the pectoral tufts are well developed, the black does not reach the abdomen, and the green wash on the mantle is considerably less than is usual in *P. r. rufonuchalis*. These three specimens seem to be intermediate between this new form and *P. r. rufonuchalis*.

Mr. Blanchard made a small collection of birds in northern Afghanistan in 1935. Most of his specimens are in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, and I have to thank Dr. Grinnell for the loan of some of his specimens, among which was this new and remarkable form of Tit.

Erythrina synoica salimalii, subsp. nov.

Description.—Compared with *E. s. stoliczæ* the male and female of this form are not nearly so sandy above, and the rose below in the male is more extended and deeper in tint. Compared with *E. s. beicki* this form is greyer, not so brown,

on the mantle. In the male the rose of the underparts is brighter and more extended towards vent and under tail-coverts. In *E. s. beicki* the rose rarely reaches the abdomen except as a very pale wash.

Distribution.—Only so far known from the Bamian Valley between the Shibar Pass and Akrobat Pass at between 8000 and 11,000 feet.

Type.—In my collection. Male, Akrobat, 9000 feet, N. Afghanistan, April 26, 1937, collected by myself. Named after Mr. Salim Ali, who drew my attention to the bird.

Measurements.—Wing of 10 males 95–100 mm., and of 5 females 90–94 mm.

Remarks.—Compared with a small series of *E. s. synoica* in my collection and with large series of *E. s. beicki* and *E. s. stoliczæ* in the Berlin and Leningrad Museums.

Sitta neumayer subcæruleus, subsp. nov.

Description.—Much paler above than topotypical *S. n. tephronota*, and with less rusty colour on the underparts. The mantle is a clearer, cleaner blue-grey.

Type.—In my collection, male, Haibak, Afghan Turkestan, 3000 feet, May 17, 1937.

Distribution.—Only known from near Haibak in Afghan Turkestan.

Remarks.—A series of eight compared with a large series of *S. n. tephronota* from Russian Turkestan, East Persia, and Beluchistan.

Mr. G. M. Mathews sent the following notes :—

Procellaria oceanica Bonaparte.

In the 'Zoological Journal,' vol. iii. no. 9, for January 1827, p. 89, Bonaparte, in article ten, "Supplement to an Account of four Species of Stormy Petrel," uses *Procellaria oceanica* Nob. [=*Oceanites*]. In 'Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York,' vol. ii. for 1828 (February 5), Bonaparte, p. 449, introduced *Thalassidroma oceanica* Nob. and described a bird very similar to *Procellaria grallaria* Vieillot, 1818. Of the feet he said "the principal and most remarkable character (which I also observed in the other

specimen, but did not notice, fearing it to be artificial) is the following, the nails are plane (quite flat), dilated and rounded at tip, quite different from those of other species . . . and somewhat resembling those of the species of the genus *Podiceps*."

Here we have Bonaparte noticing the shape of the nails, and so agreeing with Kuhl, who, in 1820, says that they were "plate-shaped, flattened, and by no means compressed." Unanimity so far.

Now we come to the confusion of a name, one of the many in our science.

Bonaparte in 1855 had specimens of Gould's *Thalassidroma melanogaster* and a specimen of a bird very like it, now called *Cymodroma leucothysanus*, but by Bonaparte called, wrongly, *Fregetta leucogaster*. This mistake has been perpetuated more or less since then, perhaps because there is in the British Museum a bird with a red type-label on it which has wrongly been considered to be Gould's type of *Thalassidroma leucogaster*. The real type of Gould's name is in Philadelphia ; and when it was loaned to me it was accompanied by a bird also called *Fregettornis grallaria*, but which by its feet is obviously *Cymodroma leucothysanus*. This explains how mistakes of identification are carried on by careful workers.

In 1855 Bonaparte was working on Petrels, and had the skins named as above, and wished to introduce a new genus. He considered his "*Fregetta leucogaster*" and *Fregetta melanogaster* to be congeneric and quite distinct from his *Thalassidroma oceanica*, which latter had large nails like those on the Grebe's feet. That is to say that Bonaparte considered that his "*Fregetta leucogaster*" and *Fregetta melanogaster* differed distinctly and generically from *Fregettornis grallaria*, which he called *Fregetta oceanica*.

As long ago as 1878 Sharpe hinted that his *Fregetta leucogastra* (=*Cymodroma leucothysanus*) may be only a phase of *Fregetta melanogastra*. His examples had white edgings to the feathers of the upper surface, which Sharpe thought might be a sign of immaturity. With this view Salvin disagreed, owing to the confusion of names, Salvin's *Fregetta grallaria* being correctly named (P.Z.S. 1878, p. 736).

Coues in 1864, writing in the Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. p. 87, for March (pub. June 30), says that the foot of *Fregetta melanogaster* Gould is " the most patent point of difference " from the same part of *Fregetta grallaria*. This remark was made after comparing Gould's type of *Fregetta leucogaster* (=*grallaria*) with Gould's type of *Fregetta melanogaster*. This difference is so unusual that it could be made a reason for separating it at least subgenerically. Most careful workers have observed this difference, from Bonaparte's time to the present day. Less careful workers have not noticed the foot formation in Storm Petrels, or else have under-valued it.

The species *Cymodroma tropica* and *Cymodroma deceptis* have the same structure; this is different from that of *Fregettornis grallaria*. The species *Cymodroma tropica* could not be confused with *Fregettornis grallaria*, whereas *Cymodroma deceptis* apparently often has been considered to be *Fregettornis grallaria*, owing largely, if not entirely, to its having the same wide white margins to be feathers of the upper surface, the foot construction being quite different. This mis-identification, for the above reason, is observed in the Academy at Philadelphia, where there are two specimens each with pronounced white fringes to the feathers of the back, one the type of Gould's *Thal. leucogaster*, the other with quite differently shaped feet, and now known as *Cymodroma leucothysanus*, but by that Institution labelled *Fregetta grallaria*.

In the ' Emu ', vol. xxii. Oct. 1, 1922, pt. 2, pp. 81–97, Messrs. Kinghorn and Cayley review the differences between the genera *Fregetta* and *Fregettornis*. They point out these differences very clearly and admit both genera.

They had two skins of the bird now called *Cymodroma leucothysanus*, wrongly labelled by Gould as *Fregetta leucogaster*, which latter names these authors considered to be a synonym of *Cymodroma tropica*. In other words they considered *Cymodroma tropica* to be in a quite distinct genus from *Fregettornis grallaria*. There can be no doubt but that *Cymodroma deceptis* and *Cymodroma leucothysanus*, *Cymodroma tropica* and *Cymodroma melanogaster* are closely related and congeneric, and differ in several important particulars from *Fregettornis grallaria* and its subspecies.

Fregettornis grallaria.	Cymodroma tropica.
Toes short, and measure the same length as the widest expanse of the foot.	Toes long, and measure longer than the widest expanse of the foot.
Expanded foot roughly equilateral in shape.	Expanded foot roughly isosceles triangular in shape.
Basal joint of middle toe scaled.	Basal joint of middle toe not scaled.
Tarsus scaled.	Tarsus not scaled.
Feet with toes of about equal length.	Feet with inner toe noticeably shorter than the other two.
Claws wide as long.	Claws long and thin.
Feet not projecting beyond the tail in life.	Feet projecting beyond the tail in life.

Fregettornis grallaria.

A good example of the wrong identification of the "short-toed" and "long-toed *grallaria*" is from the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. I asked the authorities for their series on loan, and the type of Gould's *Fregetta leucogaster* was sent and with it an example of the bird now called *Cymodroma leucothysanus*. In this specimen the webs of the three outer tail-feathers are white, more pronounced on the inner; fourth and fifth with the inner web only white; central pair all dark. The wing is 165 mm.; tail 81; bill 15; tarsus 41; middle toe and claw 27; outer toe and claw 26; inner 24; and this specimen resembles the type of *Cymodroma leucothysanus*. In the type of *Fregettornis leucogaster* (Gould) the middle toe and claw measures 23 mm., and resembles in foot construction the type of *Fregettornis grallaria*.

In *Fregettornis grallaria* and its subspecies the tarsus and basal toe-joints are scaled, in *Cymodroma deceptis* and *Cymodroma leucothysanus* these parts are booted

The question which arises is not whether these last two names belong to *grallaria*, but are they a phase of *Cymodroma tropica*?

The form *Cymodroma tubulata* fits into the super-species *Cymodroma tropica*, with the middle toe and claw equal to the outer toe and claw in measurement, viz., 25 mm., and the inner toe and claw 22. In *Cymodroma tropica* these parts measure 29 mm. and 26, in *Cymodroma melanogaster* 28 and 25.

Nesofregetta amphitrite.

Coues, in Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. p. 85, 1864 (for March, pub. June 30), says that *Fregetta tropica* (Gould) is the largest species of the genus, the middle toe with claw $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches (32 mm.), tarsus 42 to 44, bill 15; and on p. 86 says that it has a white nuchal collar. What bird can this be? Indubitably a badly made skin of *Nesofregetta*, and this explains Bonaparte's remarks in 'Comptes Rendus,' vol. xli. pp. 1112–3, Dec. 24, 1855.

Mr. R. H. W. Pakenham sent the following notes :—

Astur tachiro.

Mr. Vaughan, in Ibis, 1929, p. 605, says that his three males from Pemba Island differ from *A. t. tachiro* and *A. t. sparsimfasciatus* in lacking any white spots in the tail, which spots are large in *A. t. tachiro* and smaller but distinct in *A. t. sparsimfasciatus*. The spotting, I find, varies a good deal among individuals, being practically absent in a *A. t. tachiro* from Northern Rhodesia while clear in others; again, in two *A. t. sparsimfasciatus* from Kenya and Uganda I find the spotting absent, though it is just perceptible in two skins from Zanzibar and Uganda. Two of the three Pemba males have *pale* patches on the central tail-feathers, corresponding to the *white* patches in *A. t. tachiro*.

Mr. Vaughan points out that the Pemba birds are rufous on the underparts, and in this respect are nearer to *A. t. tachiro*; but since his paper was written a male *A. t. sparsimfasciatus* from Lango, Uganda, has come into the National Collection which is even more rufous on the breast than the Pemba birds.

Tchitrea perspicillata and Tchitrea viridis.

A survey of all the specimens of *Tchitrea perspicillata perspicillata*, *T. p. plumbeiceps*, and *T. viridis suahelica* in the British Museum, from the Cape to Lamu and inland to the Great Lakes, covering the territories of Kenya, Zanzibar, Tanganyika, Portuguese East Africa, Nyasaland, the Rhodesias,

Transvaal, Natal, and the Cape Province, leads me to the following conclusions :—

T. perspicillata perspicillata.—Characterized by absence of any trace of white feathering on the upper side ; blue-green sheen on the throat of males ; whitish lower abdomen and vent. Examined twelve males, three females, and five unsexed birds, from the Cape, Natal, Transvaal, Nyasaland, and the Zambesi ; and twelve males, six females, and two unsexed birds, from Tanganyika, Kenya, and Zanzibar.

T. perspicillata plumbeiceps.—Characterized by absence of any trace of white feathering on the upper side ; very little sheen on the heads of either sex ; grey throat continuing into grey breast and flanks of the same tone (not so dark as *T. viridis suahelica*), shading off paler into a light grey abdomen and white or whitish vent and under tail-coverts. Examined fourteen males, six females, and six unsexed birds, from Natal, Transvaal, the Rhodesias, and Portuguese East Africa.

T. viridis suahelica.—Characterized by some white, if only a trace, in the feathering of the upper side ; blue-green sheen on the throat of males ; much darker grey on the underside than in *T. p. perspicillata* and *T. p. plumbeiceps*, and either no white at all or just a trace at the vent or under tail-coverts. Examined twenty-two males, two females, and one unsexed bird, from Uganda, Kenya, and Tanganyika.

All three forms are equal in size.

Their distribution, based on the localities of the skins which I have examined, is as follows :—

T. perspicillata perspicillata.—From Knysna (Cape Province) to the Zambesi and Maloza at the south end of Lake Nyasa. Thence, across a gap of some 700 miles where none of the three forms has been collected, to Kilosa in Tanganyika, where exactly the same bird occurs. Thence it occurs at several places along the coast from Dar-es-salaam to Takaungu (north of Mombasa). It occurs on Kilimanjaro and on Zanzibar and Pemba Islands. West of Lake Nyasa it was taken at Kachere.

T. perspicillata plumbeiceps.—A line drawn from Durban northwards along the coast to Quelimane Province, thence

inland to Petauke (north-eastern Northern Rhodesia), Mashonaland, Matabeleland, Rustenburg (Transvaal), and back to Durban encloses the territory where it is found. This form and *T. p. perspicillata* overlap one another's territory all the way from Durban to Petauke and Quelimane, which indicates that they are really distinct species.

T. viridis suahelica.—From Kilimanjaro, Amani, and Ngomeni up the coast to Lamu and thence inland to Victoria Nyanza, and north and west of the area thus delineated. This form intergrades with *T. p. perspicillata* from Kilimanjaro and Ngomeni along the coast only to Takaungu. When all the forms of *Tchitrea* in the Ethiopian region come to be revised, this race may well be grouped as a subspecies of *T. perspicillata*.

Calamœcetor leptorhyncha.

In Ibis, 1937, p. 299, Dr. Bannerman, in his review of the genus *Calamœcetor*, differentiates between *C. leptorhyncha leptorhyncha* and *C. l. macrorhyncha* on the sole ground, presumably, of wing-size, since he found the wings of three males and three females from the coasts of Kenya (mouth of the Tana River), Amani (Tanganyika), Zanzibar and Pemba Islands, measured: males 62–64 mm., females 64–65 (one being 58); and those of three males and three females from Kenya (except coast)—Laikipia, Kiambu, Nakuru, Lake Naivasha—and Abyssinia (Lake Zwai), measured: males 69–72 mm., females 67–70. These specimens he attributed to the subspecies *C. l. leptorhyncha* and *C. l. macrorhyncha* respectively.

Since this review was written more material has become available at the British Museum which brings into question the separability of these two races. I find four males of *C. l. macrorhyncha* from south Abyssinia, Kafue River (N. Rhodesia), and N.E. Rhodesia have wings 64, 67, 68, 72 mm.; and eight males of *C. l. leptorhyncha* from Amani and Mbulu (Tanganyika) have wings 61, 63, 66, 66, 67, 68, 69, 69 mm. I find also four females of *C. l. macrorhyncha* from Kiambu and Lake Nakuru (Kenya), Nyasaland, and N.E. Rhodesia have wings 65, 66, 67, 72 mm.; and three females of *C. l. leptorhyncha* from Amani,

Mbulu, Zanzibar and Pemba have wings 59, 66, 69 mm. (The two Laikipia specimens, male and female—the latter being the type of *C. l. macrorhyncha*—were discounted as being rusty-coloured juveniles.)

All these fall within the " small " group of Admiral Lynes and Mr. Sclater (Ibis, 1934, p. 43) with the exception of two (a male from Lake Zwai, south Abyssinia, wing 72 mm., and a female from Kiambu, Kenya, wing 72 mm., which, however, fall short of their " large " group, whose wing is 77 ± 4 mm. ; further, some of their other measurements definitely bring them within the " small " group.

There is thus general agreement that they all fall into the " small " species *C. l. leptorhyncha*, but I maintain that their division into *C. l. leptorhyncha* and *C. l. macrorhyncha* is impossible, seeing that the overlap in measurement is so considerable and they are alike in appearance ; this latter fact was demonstrated by the unsuccessful attempt of a disinterested third party to separate them after they had been mixed up.

In my view they are all one race, i. e., *Calamœcetor leptorhyncha leptorhyncha* (Reichw.), having the following distribution : Tana River (type-locality), inland to Lake Zwai (about 70 miles south of Addis Abbaba), south to Lake Nakuru (Kenya), Mbulu and Amani (Tanganyika), Kafue River (Northern Rhodesia, near Belgian Congo border), Nyasaland ; also Zanzibar and Pemba Islands.

Mandingoa nitidula.

Typical *M. n. nitidula* (as *Estrilda nitidula*) was described by Hartlaub in Ibis, 1865, p. 269, from a female from Natal. There is no mention of any orange wash on the breast, and the single Natal female in the British Museum confirms that the breast is plain greyish-green. A male from the type-locality has a plain olive-green breast with no orange or golden wash. Hartlaub's description further postulates that the area of the lores and about the base of the bill is " fulvo-aurantia " (tawny golden-yellow).

In Ogilvie-Grant's description of *M. n. chubbi* (as *Pytelia chubbi*) in Bull. B. O. C. xxix. 1912, p. 64, the type being

a male from Marsabit, he differentiates it from *M. n. nitidula* thus :

Male, similar to *M. n. nitidula* Hartl., but has the breast washed with scarlet-orange. Wing 54 mm.

Female, similar to *M. n. nitidula*, but with orange-buff on lores, cheeks, and chin, extending over the throat and continued in a slightly darker shade over the chest. Wing 53 mm.

An adult male and female from north Gazaland, S. Rhodesia, an adult male from Pemba, two adult males and an adult female from Amani, and an adult male from Mombasa, approximate more nearly to this description than to *M. n. nitidula*, though the scarlet-orange wash on the breast of the males varies and is in no case as deep as in the type from Marsabit.

I find wings of Natal and East African birds substantially the same.

Ogilvie-Grant gives the distribution of *M. n. chubbi* as " British East Africa (*i. e.*, Kenya) and Uganda, ranging from Mombasa northwards to Marsabit and westwards to Entebbe." It may or may not turn out that Gazaland birds are *chubbi* ; but in any event I consider that with the addition of Amani and the Zanzibar Protectorate Ogilvie-Grant's distribution should stand until modified or disproved by further evidence (compare relative distribution of the two races in Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. p. 786).

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following three notes :—

1. On the Races of *Lybius torquatus* (Dumont), and the Status of *Lybius zombæ* (Shelley).

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 271, recognizes two races of *L. torquatus*, and considers *L. zombæ* as a species with one race. Lynes, J. f. O. 1934, p. 65, considers his birds from Njombe and Iringa to be *L. t. congicus* (Reichenow). Belcher, Bds. Nyasaland, 1930, p. 161, expresses the opinion that *L. zombæ* is a local and changeable form of *L. torquatus* and should perhaps be called *L. torquatus zombæ*. Vincent,

Ibis, 1935, p. 6, says that the call of *L. zombæ* is the same as that of *L. torquatus*.

Our examination of the fine series in the British Museum collection shows that Belcher's opinion can be upheld and that too many races have been recognized. We recognize three, as follows :—

(*a*) Lybius torquatus torquatus (Dumont).

Bucco torquatus Dumont, Dict. Sci. Nat. iv. 1806, p. 58, pl. xxviii. : South-eastern Cape Province, South Africa, of which *Melanobucco torquatus congicus* Reichenow, in Werth. Mittl. Hoch. D. O. Afr. 1898, p. 273 : Marungu, S. E. Belgian Congo ; and *Lybius torquatus pumilio* Grote, O. M. xxxv. 1927, p. 144 : Uvira, eastern Belgian Congo, are synonyms ; inasmuch as we can see no characters by which they can be distinguished.

Forehead, sides of head, and throat to neck rich crimson red.

Distribution.—From the Cape Province and Natal to Angola, Portuguese East Africa, the Rhodesias, south-western and western Nyasaland, Belgian Congo, and southern and western Tanganyika Territory, as far north as Iringa and Kalago, 190 miles south of Kigoma.

(*b*) Lybius torquatus irroratus (Cab.).

Pogonorhynchus irroratus Cabanis, J. f. O. 1878, p. 205 : Mombasa, Kenya Colony.

Forehead, sides of head, and throat to neck more brick-red, and feathers lanceolate in shape, especially on throat and neck.

Distribution.—Coastal areas of Kenya Colony and eastern and central Tanganyika Territory as far west as the Dodoma District, and as far south as Dar-es-Salaam.

(*c*) Lybius torquatus zombæ Shelley.

Melanobucco zombæ Shelley, Ibis, 1893, p. 10 : Zomba, southern Nyasaland ; of which *Lybius zombæ albigularis* Neumann, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. 1908, p. 46 : Songea, south-western Tanganyika Territory, is a synonym.

Meise, Sond. Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berlin, xxii. i. 1937, p. 123, treats *L. zombæ* as a race of *L. torquatus*, but gives no reasons or authority for this arrangement.

Forehead, sides of head, and throat to neck variable. In a few specimens these parts are red, but of a paler and more dull brick-red than *L. t. irroratus*, others are pink, but the majority have the forehead, sides of head and throat to neck black with white flecks. Similar white flecks (or white feathers) are to be found in specimens of both *L. t. torquatus* and *L. t. irroratus* in amongst the red feathering. Previously these dull brick-red specimens had been placed under *L. t. torquatus*, but there is no doubt that they do not belong to the typical race, but are the richest coloured representatives of *L. t. zombæ*, a race which has presumably now lost this red coloration *.

Distribution.—Southern Nyasaland to central and northern Portuguese East Africa and south-western Tanganyika Territory.

Six specimens in the British Museum collection from Tete eastwards, and Beira, Portuguese East Africa, are not so rich a red as typical *L. t. torquatus*, but are richer than *L. t. zombæ*, and are therefore intermediate between these two races. It is possible that the dull red brick and pink phases of *L. t. zombæ* are more plentiful in the southern than the northern range of this race.

2. On the Status of the Races of *Trachyphonus vaillantii* Ranzani, Elem. Zool. iii. pt. 2, 1821, p. 159 : south-eastern Cape Province.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 284, recognizes two races. In 1929 Grote described *T. v. suschkini* (O. M. xxxvii. p. 76 : Tabora), giving the distribution as from northern Uha (Kibondo District) to Tabora, Urungu (southern end Lake Tanganyika), Kakoma to north Angola. The British Museum has specimens from Loangwa and Kambove which have wings of 95 to 103 mm. ; and these specimens are within the distribution of *T. v. suschkini* as given by the author, who

* See Vincent, Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 149.

gives wing-measurement 93 to 97 mm. Transvaal specimens in the British Museum collection measure 97 to 106, one from Zululand 99, and one from Natal 96 mm. The characters given for *T. v. suschkini*, for *T. v. suahelicus* Reichenow, J. f. O. 1887, p. 60: Usegua, north-eastern Tanganyika Territory; and for *T. v. nobilis* O. Grant, Ibis, 1912, p. 397: Lake Ngami, Bechuanaland, do not hold good when a series is examined, and the character of a weaker or stronger bill stressed by some authors appears to be merely an individual one. There is also very considerable individual variation among birds from the same area. We are therefore of opinion that no races can be recognized, and *Trachyphonus vaillantii* Ranz. must be treated binominally.

3. On the Status of *Trachyphonus margaritatus somalicus* Zedlitz, O. M. 1910, p. 57: Al Dubar, British Somaliland; and *Trachyphonus margaritatus kingi* Bowen, Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. lxxxiii. 1931, p. 229: Erkowit, Red Sea Province, Sudan.

Both Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 285, and Friedmann, Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1930, p. 461, support *T. m. somalicus*.

Our examination of the good series in the British Museum shows that there is no difference between Sennar, Erkowit, and British Somaliland specimens. The orange breast is to be found in specimens from Omdurman and the French Niger amongst others having no orange tint, so that this character can only be an individual one.

We are therefore of the opinion that both *T. m. somalicus* Zedlitz and *T. m. kingi* Bowen must become synonyms of *Trachyphonus margaritatus* (Cretzchmar) in Rüppell's Atlas, 1826, p. 30, pl. xx.: Sennar, eastern Sudan.

A Correction.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed point out that on p. 83, line 10, Bull. B. O. C. lviii. 1938, the word "not" has been omitted between the words "could" and "be,"

31 MAY 1938
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCXIV.

The four-hundred-and-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, May 4, 1938.

Chairman : Mr. G. M. Mathews.

Members present :—Miss C. M. Acland ; W. B. Alexander ; F. J. F. Barrington ; Miss M. G. S. Best ; Brig.-Gen. R. M. Betham ; The Hon. G. L. Charteris ; A. Ezra ; J. Fisher ; Dr. J. M. Harrison ; P. A. D. Hollom ; Dr. E. Hopkinson ; B. Lloyd ; Miss C. Longfield ; Dr. P. R. Lowe ; T. H. McKittrick, Jr. ; Col. R. Meinertzhagen ; T. H. Newman ; M. E. W. North ; C. Oldham ; R. H. W. Pakenham ; Mrs. J. B. Priestley ; D. Seth-Smith ; A. Landsborough Thomson (*Hon. Sec.*) ; Mrs. H. W. Boyd Watt ; C. M. N. White ; H. F. Witherby ; C. G. M. de Worms.

Guests :—C. E. Benson ; Miss T. Clay ; H. S. Stokes ; Mrs. A. L. Thomson ; L. R. Waud.

Members, 28 ; Guests, 5.

Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson made some remarks, illustrated by lantern-slides of maps, on the migration of the Pintail (*Anas acuta*). He wished particularly to draw attention to the recent reports by Wuczeticz and Tugarinov

(Moscow, 1937), which were not likely to be widely seen in this country, on the results of ringing Pintail and Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) in Russia, mainly in the Volga delta. It was said that the Pintail did not usually breed in that region, and the birds had been caught for marking as adults in wing-moult at the end of July. The breeding area was indicated by recoveries from farther north, including some above the Arctic Circle, in subsequent summers. Continued migration was shown by autumn and winter recoveries from various southerly directions. Some showed comparatively short journeys to the Caucasus region and the southern part of the Caspian Sea. Others showed a more extensive movement south-westwards and westwards to the Balkan countries, Italy, southern France, Egypt, and Algeria. There were also isolated records from French West Africa and northern India, and a few from Germany, Denmark, and Holland : with one exception these were all for the autumn of subsequent years and probably indicated a different migration from that performed in the year of marking.

For purposes of comparison, Dr. Thomson referred to the well-known results which Mortensen had obtained many years ago by ringing Pintail caught in autumn in a decoy on the island of Fanö, off the west coast of Denmark. He also mentioned the results of marking Mallard in the Volga delta, which showed a movement more restricted in extent than that of the Pintail, but otherwise generally similar.

Mr. W. B. Alexander asked whether possible differences between the movements performed by a species in different calendar years might account for certain of the results. Dr. Thomson thought, however, that when the numbers were subdivided in this way the records became too few to be reliable samples.

Mr. H. F. Witherby referred to various ringing records which showed that an individual bird might migrate differently in different years. Mr. G. L. Charteris also cited some recent cases of this kind. Dr. Percy R. Lowe mentioned examples of different return routes being used in spring from those followed in autumn.

Mr. C. Oldham (who had taken the Chair on the departure of Mr. Mathews) raised a point regarding the apparent concentration of migration within narrow limits midway between two wide areas. Dr. Thomson agreed that this effect was largely an artificial result of marking at a single point. Mr. F. J. F. Barrington referred to the human factors which influence the reporting of marked birds, and the consequent danger of quantitative interpretation of such data.

Colonel R. Meinertzhagen said that the Russian results were specially interesting in showing, for the first time, what long distances male Pintail might travel from their breeding grounds before undergoing wing-moult. It was usual for the birds to seek the nearest suitable sea for that purpose, but in the case of some which bred above the Arctic Circle this appeared to be the Caspian.

Mr. R. H. W. Pakenham sent the following description of a new race of the East African Red-crested Lourie :—

Turacus fischeri zanzibaricus, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *T. f. fischeri* (Reichw.) from the East African coast, but the back and rump and the sheen of the wings and tail are blue tinged with violet and with little trace of green, as compared with the predominant green on those parts in the typical bird ; further, the wing-patch is a clear crimson with practically no trace of any sheen as compared with the carmine wing-patch of the typical bird, which carries a purple sheen.

Type.—A male collected in the Jozani Forest, Zanzibar Island, at sea-level, on February 22, 1937, by Mr. Jack Vincent, Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1938.4.9.1. This type-specimen has been presented by Mr. J. Vincent to the British Museum.

Measurements.—Of a male (the type), wing 172, ; tail 188 ; and of a doubtful male, wing 169 ; tail 179 mm.

Remarks.—The type-specimen had the testes reduced after breeding. The only other specimen is a doubtful male taken on September 23, 1934, in the same forest by Mr. R. H. W. Pakenham ; the gonads of this bird also were inactive, and it

had been feeding on the berries of *Polysphaeria multiflora*, a common plant in the undergrowth of this forest. This specimen is in the British Museum.

This Lourie is a somewhat silent bird, unlike its congeners, and appears to be very uncommon. As far as is known it is confined to the Jozani Forest in Zanzibar Island, where the local Kiswahili name is "jogoo."

Mr. C. W. Benson sent the following descriptions of two new races :—

Anomalospiza imberbis nyasæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *Anomalospiza i. imberbis* in having the upper parts much darker, the streaks more pronounced, and the golden yellow replaced by olive yellow; the under parts are also darker, many of the feathers being tipped with buffish-white, and in some specimens there is a dark indistinct band across the breast, but this is variable. From the type of *A. i. macmillani* it differs in being darker both above and below and in being less golden yellow.

Distribution.—Nyasaland, from Dowa District northwards to Fort Hill.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Dowa, altitude 4000 feet. Central Nyasaland. Collected by C. W. Benson on September 19, 1937 (collector's No. 666). Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1938.4.13.2.

Measurements of type.—Wing 71 ; tail 42 ; culmen from base 16 ; tarsus 17 mm.

Remarks.—Two birds collected by Major Cheesman on Lake Tana have been identified as *A. i. macmillani* ; they are very similar to this new race, but on the upper parts the black streaks are heavier and wider and they appear to be brighter green, especially on the rump. Of six additional specimens collected by Mr. Benson, four males have a wing-measurement of 70, one male 72, while the only female measures 65 mm.

Othyphantes stuhlmanni nyikæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *Othyphantes s. stuhlmanni* in the much darker colour of the whole of the upper parts, partly

due to the feathers on the back being very much more strongly streaked with black. On the under parts it differs in having the whole of the abdomen and crissum ashy-cream or buff. *O. s. sharpii* only differs from this new race in having the whole of the underparts entirely yellow.

Distribution.—North Nyasaland.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult, Nyika Plateau, North Nyasa, collected by C. W. Benson on November 12, 1937 (collector's No. 923). Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1938.4.13.1.

Measurement of type.—Wing 83 ; tail 62 ; culmen from base 20 ; tarsus 24 mm.

Remarks.—Three other male specimens collected by Mr. Benson at the same locality have a wing-measurement of 80–82 mm.

Mr. R. E. Moreau sent the following :—

About the date Dr. G. Carmichael Low was recording in the 'Bulletin' (vol. lviii. p. 7) a Reeve that still survived although its wing was torn off completely, a Yellow-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus tricolor micrus*) here was giving an even more remarkable example of tenacity of life. It was hatched in honeysuckle on the side of the house, and, like most young birds of its species, it left the nest much too soon. It had spent five days on the ground among tangled herbage, tended assiduously by its parents, when we went away for the week-end. On our return, late on the Sunday night, one of our boys reported that he had picked up a bulbul with only one wing and put it in a cage that always stands on our verandah. As it seemed to be asleep we did not examine it or put it out of its misery at once as we at first intended The next morning we found that the parents had already located it and were feeding it through the wire. It seemed to be in excellent condition except that at the junction of the humerus with the radius and ulna the wing had been taken off as clearly as if it had been done with a scalpel. It is just possible that the injury had been caused by a Peregrine Falcon we had seen about for several days, during which time it had stooped

repeatedly on the aviary. We have no alternative suggestion. The fact remains that the one-winged bulbul lived, and apparently enjoyed good health, for at least six weeks after the amputation. Its death took place from no obvious cause, following a couple of days lack of appetite. The injured limb remained healthy throughout.

Mr. C. M. N. White sent the two following notes :—

1. The Races of *Glossopsitta concinna* (Shaw).

Peters ' Check List,' iii. p. 157, recognizes no races of this bird. Mathews (Bds. Australia, vi. p. 52) says he recognizes no races owing to the migratory habit of the species.

Examination of twenty birds from Australia and eleven from Tasmania shows that they are separable with ease. In Australian birds the blue crown is strongly marked in the male whilst in females the crown is green with a well-defined bluish wash. Tasmanian birds appear to have the sexes practically alike, and in the whole series examined none have a strong blue crown ; the crown in all is much greener than typical *G. c. concinna* ; in addition in series Tasmanian birds are greener, less olive above, and the red on the ear and front is paler.

As regards Mathews' objection because of the migration of the species—though his notes show considerable movement in Australia—there is no indication of any movement from Tasmania to the mainland. In view of this fact and the marked difference between the series examined it is necessary to recognize :—

Glossopsitta concinna concinna (Shaw).

Psittacus concinnus Shaw, Nat. Misc. iii. 1791, p. [57] : " New Holland."

Distribution.—S. Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia.

Glossopsitta concinna didimus Mathews.

Glossopsitta concinna didimus Mathews, Austr. Av. Rec. ii. 1915, p. 127 : Tasmania.

Distribution.—Tasmania.

2. The Races of *Geopelia striata* in Australia.

Peters, ' Check List,' iii. p. 101, recognizes two races in Australia and puts *G. placida clelandi* Mathews, *G. p. melvillensis* Mathews, and *G. p. hedleyi* Mathews as synonyms of *G. striata placida*.

Examination of the series in the British Museum shows that three races can be recognized :—

Geopelia striata placida Gould.

Geopelia placida Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1844, p. 55 : Pt. Essington.

Synonyms are *G. p. melvillensis* Mathews, Austr. Av. Rec. i. 1912, p. 28 : Melville Island, and *G. p. hedleyi* Mathews, *ibid.* p. 84 : Cape York.

This race is marked by its small size. Wings of ten examined 94–99, once 102 mm.

Distribution.—Northern Territory and Cape York.

Geopelia striata clelandi Mathews.

Geopelia placida clelandi Mathews, Nov. Zool. xviii. 1912, p. 186 : Coongan River.

Differs from *G. s. placida* in being larger ; above much more reddish sandy with dark edges less defined ; hind crown much lighter, more sandy brown.

Wings of four examined :—99, 102, 104, 106 mm. These birds are from Carnarvon and the Gascoyne River.

Distribution.—Mid-west Australia ; exact limits not yet defined.

Geopelia striata tranquilla Gould.

Geopelia tranquilla Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1844, p. 56 : Liverpool plains and banks of Namoi, New South Wales.

Larger than *G. s. placida* ; much darker above, colder and greyer in colour and less brown ; black edges broader and stronger ; hinder crown much more grey-brown. Under wing-coverts and axillaries average darker.

Wings of twenty birds : 103–110 mm.

Distribution.—S. Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland north to Townsville.†

† THE ONLY SPECIMEN FROM TOWNSVILLE IS MUCH PALER

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Macworth-Praed sent the following five notes :—

1. On the Status of *Pogoniulus bilineatus conciliator* Friedmann, Proc. N. Engl. Zool. Club, 1929, p. 36 : Nyange, Uluguru Mountains, Tanganyika Territory.

Friedmann compared this race with *P. b. fischeri* (Reichenow) Orn. Cent. 1880, p. 181 : Zanzibar, and *P. b. jacksoni* (Sharpe), Bull. B. O. C. vii. 1897, p. vii : Mau, Kenya Colony ; but had only one specimen of *P. b. bilineatus* (Sundevall) Œfv. Vet. Akad. Förhandl. 1850, p. 109 : Natal, South Africa ; and one of *P. b. fischeri* for comparison.

Recently Mr. Moreau has sent to the British Museum one adult female from Uluguru Mountains, and two adult females from the Nguru Mountains. Moreau had already sent these Uluguru and Nguru specimens to Loveridge, who pronounced that they agreed with topotypic birds. These three adult specimens from Uluguru and Nguru agree perfectly with the long series of *P. b. bilineatus* in the British Museum. Therefore *P. b. conciliator* becomes a synonym of *P. b. bilineatus*, the distribution of which is from Natal and Zululand through the Transvaal and southern Rhodesia to Nyasaland, Portuguese East Africa, and the Uluguru and Nguru Mountains, Tanganyika Territory.

2. On the Races of *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* Cabanis.

Claude Grant, Ibis, 1915, p 448, in a review of this group recognized only one race and was of the opinion that *T. e. versicolor* Hartlaub was the young of *T. e. erythrocephalus*.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 285, also recognizes only one race, but in App. 1930, p. 860, he gives four races as recognized by Neumann. In view of this discrepancy we have re-examined the good series in the British Museum collection and find that only three races can be recognized. The characters given for *T. e. gallarum* Neumann, and *T. e. jacksoni* Neumann, are to be found in a series of *T. e. versicolor* Hartlaub, from in and around the type-locality of that race.

The races we are able to recognize are :—

Trachyphonus erythrocephalus erythrocephalus Cab.

Trachyphonus erythrocephalus Cabanis, J. f. O. 1878, p. 206, pl. ii. : Kitui, Ukamba, Kenya Colony.

Forehead and superciliary stripe red. Wing 96–103 mm.

Distribution.—Southern Kenya Colony and north-eastern Tanganyika Territory.

Trachyphonus erythrocephalus versicolor Hart.

Trachyphonus versicolor Hartlaub, O. C. 1882, p. 91 : Mongalla District, Southern Sudan; of which *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus jacksoni* Neumann, J. f. O. 1928, p. 785 : Wajheir, north-eastern Kenya Colony; and *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus gallarum* Neumann, J. f. O. 1928, p. 786 : Bussidimo, near Harar, eastern Abyssinia, are synonyms, inasmuch that although Neumann gives wing-measurements of 86 to 89 and 84 to 92 mm. respectively, Friedmann, Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1930, pp. 458–459, gives 91 and over for *T. e. jacksoni* and 84 to 92 for *T. e. gallarum*. Two specimens in the British Museum collection from the Sagan River, south-western Abyssinia (a locality included by Neumann in his distribution of *T. e. gallarum*), are 92 and 95 mm., and two males from Moyale, north-eastern Kenya Colony, in the Jackson Collection measure 87 and 90 mm. It would thus appear that *T. e. versicolor* must in itself be considered a variable and perhaps largely an intermediate form between *T. e. erythrocephalus* and *T. e. shelleyi*.

Forehead and superciliary stripe yellow. Wing 91 to 96 mm.

Distribution.—Eastern and southern Abyssinia to southern Sudan, northern Kenya Colony, and Uganda.

Trachyphonus erythrocephalus shelleyi Hartl.

Trachyphonus shelleyi Hartlaub, Ibis, 1886, p. 106, pl. v. : Goolis Mountains, British Somaliland.

Similar to *T. e. erythrocephalus* but smaller. Wing 76 to 85 mm.

Distribution.—British to northern Italian Somalilands.

3. On the exact Type-locality of *Indicator variegatus* Lesson, Traité, 1831, p. 155, and the Status of *Indicator variegatus jubaensis* Neumann, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. 1908, p. 97 : Jonte, near Kismayu, southern Italian Somaliland.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 287, gives Africa only, and we cannot find that a more detailed type-locality has been given. Lesson gives no references and gives Africa only. The first reference to this bird appears to be that of Levaillant, Ois. Afr. v. 1806, p. 135, pl. 241, fig. 2, who gives the distribution as " toute la côte de l'est d'Afrique depuis les forêts d'Auteniquoi jusque chez les Caffres." We can therefore fix the exact type-locality of *Indicator variegatus* Lesson as : Knysna, Cape Province, South Africa.

Neumann in the original description of *Indicator variegatus jubaensis* gives the wing-measurement as 97 to 103 and for the typical race 105 to 114 mm. There are in the British Museum collection specimens from South Africa and Portuguese East Africa measuring respectively 103 and 101 mm. This overlap into the measurements of Neumann's race, in our view, precludes it being accepted, and we are therefore of opinion that *I. v. jubaensis* Neumann must become a synonym of *Indicator variegatus* Lesson.

4. On the exact Type-locality of *Indicator minor minor* Stephens, in Shaw's Gen. Zool. ix. 1815, p. 140.

Stephens founded this name on Levaillant's Plate and description in Ois. Afr. v. 1806, p. 137, pl. 242, giving locality as Cape of Good Hope. This has been followed by all authors. Levaillant, Ois. Afr., states that he found this bird at Swartkop, Sondag, and Camdeboo. We can therefore fix the exact type-locality of *Indicator minor minor* Stephens as Zwartkop River, Uitenhage Division, Cape Province, South Africa.

5. On the Status of *Indicator minor teitensis* Neumann, J. f. O. 1900, p. 195 : Taita, southern Kenya Colony.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 288, casts doubt on the validity of *I. m. teitensis* Neum., and Claude Grant, Ibis,

1915, p. 433, gives only small differences for this race. Zedlitz J. f. O. 1915, p. 13, places it as a race of *I. exilis* ; but his review does not help to elucidate the problem of these green-backed Honey-Guides. Van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 53, recognizes it. We have carefully examined the good series in the British Museum collection and twenty-two specimens kindly lent to us by Dr. van Someren, and find that there is quite an appreciable amount of individual variation, and that the wing-measurements of South African specimens (males 88 to 97, females 83 to 88) agree with a series from Eastern Africa (males 85 to 95, females 81 to 88 mm.).

As there is no definite character by which South African and Eastern African specimens can be distinguished, we consider *I. m. teitensis* Neum. to be a synonym of *I. m. minor* Stephens, in Shaw's Gen. Zool. ix. 1815, p. 140 : Zwartkop River, Uitenhage Division, Cape Province.

One of the specimens lent to us by van Someren, an adult female from Unsi, Juba River, southern Italian Somaliland, has an exceptionally small wing-measurement of 76 mm., but there is no doubt that it is *Indicator m. minor*. This is in keeping with the known fact that birds from the lower and middle Juba River area and for a short way down the Kenya Colony coast are liable to run small in size, though they are seldom so constant as to be recognizable as good races.

19 JUL 1938
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCXV.

The four-hundred-and-tenth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, June 8, 1938.

Chairman : Mr. G. M. Mathews.

Members present :—Dr. P. H. Manson Bahr ; Dr. D. A. Bannerman ; Miss P. Barclay-Smith ; F. J. F. Barrington ; Miss M. G. S. Best ; The Hon. G. L. Charteris ; H. P. O. Cleave ; A. Ezra ; Miss J. M. Ferrier ; J. Fisher ; Miss E. Godman ; Col. A. E. Hamerton ; B. G. Harrison ; Dr. E. Hopkinson ; Dr. K. Jordan ; N. B. Kinnear ; Miss E. P. Leach ; Dr. P. R. Lowe ; Lt-Col. H. A. F. Magrath ; E. M. Nicholson ; M. E. W. North ; C. W. Mackworth-Praed ; W. L. Sclater ; D. Seth-Smith ; B. W. Tucker ; H. Whistler.

Guests of the Club :—A. H. Chisholm ; W. Meise ; A. J. van Rossem.

Guests :—Miss L. Lodge ; Willoughby P. Low ; C. L. Sibley ; Mrs. C. L. Sibley.

Members, 27 ; Guests of the Club, 3 ; Guests, 4.

Mr. B. W. Tucker gave an account of a trip made by Mr. L. S. V. Venables and himself to Finnish and Norwegian

Lapland in the summer of 1937 for the purpose of field-observations :—

He showed a number of slides illustrating types of country and typical habitats of different species, supplemented by others of some of the more characteristic Lapland birds taken by Mr. H. N. Southern, including Mealy Redpoll (*Carduelis f. flammea*), Lapland Bunting (*Calcarius l. lapponicus*), Snow-Bunting (*Plectrophenax n. nivalis*), Northern Willow-Tit (*Parus atricapillus borealis*), Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*), Redwing (*Turdus m. musicus*), Bluethroat (*Luscinia s. svecica*), Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*), Rough-legged Buzzard (*Buteo l. lagopus*), and Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*).

The observers divided their time between the forested country, varied with tracts of swamp, of the Pasvik valley and the open tundra and fell region beyond the tree limit on the north shore of the Varanger Fjord. The season was a very hot and forward one. In the forest belt Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrulus*) were frequent and Parrot Crossbills (*Loxia pytyopsittacus*) were met with in one district. In addition to the forest species already mentioned the haunts and habits of the Siberian Jay (*Perisoreus infaustus*), Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola e. enucleator*), Lapp Tit (*Parus cinctus*), Eversmann's Warbler (*Phylloscopus b. borealis*), and others were described. The swamps of the Pasvik valley are rich in waders. Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa l. lapponica*) were found breeding, as well as the commoner Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*), Wood-Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), Whimbrel (*Numenius ph. phæopus*), and Northern Golden Plover (*Charadrius apricarius altifrons*).

In the Varanger Fjord region many of the characteristic species of the Pasvik valley are absent and others rare or absent inland take their place, for example Snow and Lapland Buntings, Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*), Turnstone (*Arenaria i. interpres*), Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris m. maritima*), Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*), and Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*). Buffon's Skuas (*Stercorarius longi-*

caudus) were evidently not breeding in the district in 1937. Excellent opportunities were afforded for observing Steller's Eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), of which a flock of 9 males and 4 females was present in the now well-known locality for this species on the Varanger Fjord. For some reason which is anything but clear, this appears to be a non-breeding colony with a fluctuating population, though broods are stated to have been seen in 1924.

The distribution and status of birds in the districts visited have been very fully dealt with by Dr. H. M. S. Blair in his paper on the " Birds of East Finmark " (' Ibis,' 1936), so that it is unnecessary to dilate on this subject here, but two additions were made to Dr. Blair's list. A pair of Great Tits (*Parus m. major*) with a fledged brood was met with at Svanik, over 69° N., and Twites (*Carduelis f. flavirostris*), including a male in song and a party of about half-a-dozen, probably a family, were observed on Vardö, this representing apparently an extension of the recorded range of the species on the Norwegian coast.

Mr. A. H. Chisholm, an officer of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, and a former editor of ' The Emu,' who is in England on holiday, gave a brief talk on some features of bird-life in Australia :—

He showed slides illustrating the beautiful nests of various species of Robins and Flycatchers, as well as other small birds, and in particular slides relating to the remarkable Lyre-Birds and Bower-Birds.

Suggesting that the Lyre-Bird was the most accomplished of all vocal mimics, as well as possessing beautiful " natural " notes, Mr. Chisholm pointed out that it was also a spectacular dancer and a glorious artist in display. Both species of Lyre-Birds, he added, bred in mid-winter, and it was then that the finest performances were given.

The Satin Bower-Bird was described by the lecturer as an architect, a decorator, a dancer, and a painter. All of these accomplishments related to the bower, or play-harbour,

which was quite distinct from the nest. The bower of the Satin Bower-Bird was always decorated with blue objects (flowers, feathers, etc.), with yellowish-green objects as a second choice. The painting ability of the bird was manifest in that it munched charcoal into a paste and plastered the " paint " on each of the sticks of the inside wall of the bower. It was a mistake to suppose that this species of Bower-Bird was fond of shining objects ; that predeliction was a weakness of its relatives, the *Chlamydera* Bower-Birds. Mr. Chisholm added the opinion that bower-building originated on a sexual basis, but was now largely recreational. The birds practised, as it were, " art for art's sake."

Mr. A. J. van Rossem sent the following descriptions of twenty-one new races of Fringillidæ and Icteridæ from Mexico and Guatemala :—

Five years ago, when visiting England, the writer was impressed with the wealth of Mexican material originally accumulated by Salvin and Godman and later incorporated into the collections of the British Museum. At that time he was concerned chiefly with fixing the identity of various types of American birds and was obliged to defer study of the general collections until the present year. His thanks are offered to the Trustees for permission to use the collections and to the Staff for assistance in many ways.

The ornithology of Mexico is far from well known. Certain areas in the south and east have been fairly well investigated, although much remains to be learned concerning even these, and most of the western parts are almost *terra incognita* as regards the distribution or character of much of its bird-life. It is with the west that the present studies have to do and most of the following descriptions are from that region.

Saltator grandis richardsoni, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Saltator grandis vigorsii* Gray of Nayarit and Sinaloa, but size smaller ; coloration more

fulvescent below and more olive (less ashy) grey above. Young more olive and darker green (less yellowish) above.

Distribution.—South-western Mexico, from Jalisco (San Marcos near Zapotlan) south through Colima (Plains of Colima) and Guerrero (Acapulco; Dos Arroyos; Tierra Colorada) to Oaxaca (Putla).

Type.—In the British Museum. Female adult. Plains of Colima, Colima, Mexico, January 19, 1890; collected by W. B. Richardson. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 94.7.1.1180.

Remarks.—It now becomes necessary to restrict the type-locality of *S. g. vigorsii*, and I therefore designate Mazatlan, Sinaloa, since the measurements given by Vigors are certainly those of the northern race.

Measurements (in mm.).—

S. g. vigorsii.

	Wing.	Tail.
2 males	104–106	95–96
3 females	102–103	92–95

S. g. richardsoni.

	Wing.	Tail.
1 male	99	90
1 female	97	92
5 unsexed.....	95–99	86–93

Buarremon virenticeps colimæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—As compared with *Buarremon virenticeps virenticeps* Bonaparte of south-central Mexico, brighter and more golden green dorsally, median crown stripe more conspicuous; occiput and nape, together with supra-auricular stripe, brighter and more yellowish (less green).

Distribution.—Known only from Volcan de Colima, Jalisco.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Sierra Nevada de Colima, Jalisco, Mexico, April 8, 1899; collected by W. B. Richardson. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 94.7.1.972.

Remarks.—The new race is described from nine specimens, all from Volcan de Colima at altitudes recorded as from 8000 to 12,000 feet. For comparison there are an equal

number from the Valley of Mexico, the most likely source of Bonaparte's type.

The typical *B. v. virenticeps* show an interesting condition in the ventral plumage, in that scarcely any two are alike. Some have white median shaft-streaks, which, in varying degree, break up the uniformity of the chest and sides; others show definite patches of albinism on these areas. The Jalisco birds, on the other hand, are quite uniform, with a well-defined chest-band to separate the white throat from the white median underparts.

Atlapetes pileatus canescens, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Atlapetes pileatus pileatus* Wagler of the Valley of Mexico, but upper parts olive-grey instead of olive-brown; yellow of underparts purer and brighter and flanks very much paler; size larger than *A. p. pileatus*, the wings of males in worn plumage averaging 70 mm., while *A. p. pileatus* in similar condition averages 64 mm.

Distribution.—High mountains of Guerrero (Amula, 6000 ft.; Omilteme, 8000 ft.).

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Omilteme, Guerrero, Mexico, July 1888; collected by Mrs. H. H. Smith. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.3901.

Remarks.—This race is based on fourteen specimens, all from the localities named above. For comparison with the typical race there are seventeen from the Valley of Mexico, the probable source of Wagler's type (which I have examined in Munich), and which include specimens in every stage of plumage. Eight specimens from various localities in Oaxaca appear to be typical of *A. p. pileatus* both in colour and size. Five specimens from Jalisco (Volcan de Colima and Zapotlan) likewise are *A. p. pileatus*, but are slightly intermediate toward the extreme north-western race *A. p. dilutus*.

Melozone biarcuatum chiapensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Melozone biarcuatum biarcuatum* of the Pacific slope of northern Nicaragua and of Guatemala,

but dorsal coloration, sides, and under tail-coverts darker brown; face, throat, and median underparts more purely white and lacking the buffy or avellaneous tinge present in *M. b. biarcuatum*.

Distribution.—Central and southern Chiapas.

Type.—In the British Museum. Female adult. Tuxtla, Chiapas, Mexico, March 18, 1897; collected by W. B. Richardson. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.3938.

Remarks.—Ridgway (Birds of Nor. & Mid. Amer. 1901, 433, footnote) has already commented on certain differences shown by the very limited material at his disposal.

There is no abrupt transition between the northern and southern extremes, and therefore the Chiapas–Guatemala boundary may, for the time being, be taken as an arbitrary division so far as the Pacific coast is concerned. The new race is based on nine specimens from Volcan Tacana (3); Tapachula (1); and Tuxtla (5). There is ample southern material for comparison.

Plagiospiza superciliosa palliata, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Plagiospiza superciliosa superciliosa* (Swainson) of southern Mexico, but coloration paler throughout; dorsally redder as well as paler; central rectrices grey instead of olive or olive-brown laterally; ventrally purer grey with the throat and median abdominal region nearly pure white.

Distribution.—Mountains of Chihuahua (Pinos Altos; Jesus Maria; near Tutuaca; Tosonachic) and extreme eastern Sonora (Bavispe River).

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Near Tutuaca, Chihuahua, Mexico, altitude 9500 feet, March 30, 1888; collected by William Lloyd. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.3591.

Remarks.—The series of seventy-six specimens in the British Museum, six of which are *P. s. palliata*, covers most of the range of the species. Specimens from Vera Cruz, the Valley of Mexico, Puebla, etc., are the darkest and the most olivaceous dorsally; those from Zacatecas, San Luis Potosi, Jalisco, Nayarit, and Durango are slightly redder dorsally,

and also are pale throughout. There is the temptation to provide these central birds with a name since the characters are uniform over a great area. However, for the present they are considered as intermediates.

Aimophila acuminata nayaritensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Compared with *Aimophila acuminata acuminata* Salvin and Godman of Morelos and Puebla, upper parts darker and duller (less reddish) brown ; median crown stripe narrower, and streaking on hind neck, flanks, and back heavier and darker; tail decidedly shorter (two males 70–71 ; 1 female 70 mm.).

Distribution.—Known only from the vicinity of Tepic, Nayarit.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico, June 8, 1889 ; collected by W. B. Richardson. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.3675.

Remarks.—Although based on only three specimens, the present race is quite distinct through several characters and I have no hesitancy in providing it with a name.

Aimophila acuminata guerrerensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Compared with *Aimophila acuminata acuminata*, upper parts paler and more orange (less reddish) brown ; streaking on upper parts and tertials narrower and more brownish (less blackish), and flanks and under tail-coverts paler.

Distribution.—Apparently confined to the State of Guerrero.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Acaguazotla, Guerrero, Mexico, October 18, 1888 ; collected by Mrs. H. H. Smith. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.3664.

Remarks.—The nine specimens of *A. a. guerrerensis* are from Acaguazotla, Acapulco, and Tierra Colorada. Worn summer and fresh fall plumages are represented in the series. This is also the case with *A. a. nayaritensis* and *A. a. acuminata*. In the latter case there is some question as to the proper spelling of the type-locality which is usually quoted as Yautepec. On the label of the type, a Deppe-taken specimen secured from the Berlin Museum, it is either Guantepec or Yuantepec.

Specimens from Jalisco (7) and Colima (3) seem to be *A. a. acuminata*, but perhaps actually are intergrades between the new forms described above.

Passerculus sandwichensis wetmorei, subsp. nov.

Similar in size to *Passerculus sandwichensis brunnescens* Butler of the southern Mexican highlands, but bill slightly larger and dorsal coloration very much darker and browner; superciliary stripe entirely yellow, save for the extreme posterior portion. Very similar in general coloration to the darkest and brownest specimens of *Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus* Bonaparte of the San Francisco Bay region of California, but underparts much less heavily streaked.

Distribution.—So far as known, the high mountains of the Pacific cordillera in extreme south-western Guatemala.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Hacienda Chancol, Guatemala, altitude 10,000 feet, June 17, 1897; collected by W. B. Richardson. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.2893.

Remarks—The eight specimens collected by Richardson at Hacienda Chancol between June 11 and 17, 1897, are very uniform in appearance. They are worn, but not excessively so, and have every appearance of breeding birds. In winter plumage they must be very richly coloured indeed, if one may judge by the analogy of *P. s. brunnescens*.

After Dr. Wetmore returned from Guatemala he told me that parts of the highlands had every appearance of being suitable for colonies of savannah sparrows, and it was his information that led me to investigate Richardson's collections from that country. Therefore the race may most appropriately be named for him.

Measurements (in mm.).—

	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Depth at base.	Tarsus.
4 males	68–71	47–51	10·5–12·0	6·1–6·8	19·7–21·1
4 females	62–65	43–46	10·0–11·0	6·0–6·3	19·0–20·0

Since writing the above, we have received Peters and Griscom's "Geographical Variation in the Savannah Sparrow" (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. 80, 1938). The Guatemala birds

are definitely *not P. s. brunnescens* with which those authors identify them (p. 471).

Volatinia jacarini diluta, subsp. nov.

Description.—Females, young male, and adult males in winter plumage paler and more slaty (less buffy) brown than *Volatinia jacarini atronitens* Todd of eastern Mexico and Central America. Adult summer males of the two races appear to be indistinguishable.

Distribution.—Western Mexico from Guerrero (Tierra Colorada ; Acapulco ; Dos Arroyos ; Altos de Camaron ; Amula) north through Jalisco (Bolanos ; Zapotlan) and Nayarit (Santiago ; San Blas) to Sinaloa (Mazatlan).

Type.—In the British Museum. Adult male in winter dress, just commencing the prenuptial moult. San Blas, Nayarit, Mexico, May 5, 1889 ; collected by W. B. Richardson. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.908.

Remarks.—The winter plumage of females and young males of both races is more buffy than the summer plumage ; therefore seasonally comparable material must be used in making determinations. There are twenty-six specimens of *V. j. diluta* in the British Museum and, of course, large series of *V. j. atronitens* from Mexico and Central America.

Pipilo maculatus chiapensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Nearest to *Pipilo maculatus repetens* Griscom of the Pacific cordillera of western Guatemala and southeastern Chiapas in relatively large bill and extension of black over the back ; differs, however, in the reduced amount of white streaking dorsally and the much browner and more rufescent lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts ; size (except for bill) smaller than *P. m. repetens.*

Distribution.—The central Sierras of Chiapas.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico, May 14, 1897 ; collected by W. B. Richardson. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.3480.

Remarks.—The nine specimens of *P. m. chiapensis* are from San Cristobal and Comitan. This same mountain range has

produced strongly characterized races of other species, so it is not surprising to find a distinct race of the highly variable *Pipilo maculatus* there also.

Measurements (in mm.).—

	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Depth at base.	Tarsus.
7 males	79–85	96–100	14·5–15·8	10·0–10·8	28·0–29·5

Pipilo torquatus brunnescens, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Pipilo torquatus torquatus* Du Bus of the mountains of Vera Cruz, but flanks and under tail-coverts browner and darker; throat and superciliary stripe more purely white.

Distribution.—High mountains of Oaxaca (La Parada; Tonaguia; Oaxaca; Totontepec).

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Totontepec, Oaxaca, Mexico, February 1889; collected by M. Trujillo. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.3845.

Remarks.—Six specimens, all very uniform in characters, have been examined from the above-listed localities.

Pipilo torquatus guerrerensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Palest of the races of *Pipilo torquatus*. Differs from *Pipilo torquatus torquatus* Du Bus in paler and more greyish sides, flanks, and under tail-coverts, more purely white superciliary stripe, and in brighter and lighter edge of wing and lesser wing-coverts.

Distribution.—The Sierra Madre of Guerrero.

Type.—In the British Museum. Sex not designated, but probably a male. Omilteme, Guerrero, Mexico, July 1888; collected by Mrs. H. H. Smith. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.3849.

Remarks.—The series from Omilteme consists of five adults and a juvenile. In the latter specimen the post-juvenile plumage is apparent in many places, thus showing that the colour-characters given are not the result of fade or wear.

The relationships of the spotted Towhees of southern Mexico are somewhat involved. Certain material examined leads me to suspect that *P. virescens*, *P. torquatus*, and *P. maculatus*

are conspecific, but careful collecting and field-observations by competent workers will be necessary to determine the question.

Pipilo fuscus tenebrosus, subsp. nov.

Description.—Nearest in colour to *Pipilo fuscus fuscus* Swainson, but coloration very much darker throughout—in fact, by far the darkest race of the "*fuscus*" group of brown Towhees ; size smaller than *P. f. fuscus*, save for the bill which is slightly longer and thicker at base.

Distribution.—Jalisco, where evidently confined to the region about Lake Chapala (Zapotlan 5 ; Zacoalco 3).

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Zapotlan, Jalisco, Mexico, November 23, 1889 ; collected by W. B. Richardson. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.3505.

Remarks.—There is obviously much to be learned about the distribution of brown Towhees in Mexico, and when all the data are in it seems likely that additional races will be uncovered. The typical race *P. f. fuscus* occurs in northern Jalisco, and there are four specimens from Bolanos which agree minutely with that form in colour and measurements.

Measurements(in mm.),—

	Wing.	Tail.
7 male *tenebrosus*	85–92	83–91
1 female *tenebrosus* ...	84	85

Junco phæonotus colimæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar in size to *Junco phæonotus phæonotus* Wagler of the central Mexican plateau, but entire coloration decidedly darker and flanks browner.

Distribution.—Sierra Nevada de Colima, Jalisco, Mexico.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Sierra Nevada de Colima, Jalisco, Mexico, April 9, 1889 ; collected by W. Lloyd and W. B. Richardson. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1. 2255.

Remarks.—The seven specimens were collected in November, December, and early April. The latter are worn and have every appearance of being breeding birds. Altitudes recorded on the labels vary from 10,000 to 12,000 feet.

Junco phæonotus australis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Junco phæonotus phæonotus* Wagler, but upper parts brighter and more extensively red, particularly on tertials and lower back; underparts more brownish-grey, particularly on flanks; bill decidedly larger and wing and tail shorter.

Distribution.—The Sierra Madre of Guerrero.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Omilteme, Guerrero, Mexico, altitude 8000 feet, August 1, 1888; collected by Mrs. H. H. Smith. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.2169.

Remarks.—The nine specimens (five adults and four juveniles) are very uniform in characters and the adults, although worn, are not excessively so.

Measurements (in mm.).—

	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Depth at base.
3 males and 2 with sex not recorded	70–77	65–71	11·5–12·0	7·4–7·6

Guiraca cærulea deltarhyncha, subsp. nov.

Description.—Bill shaped much like that of *Guiraca cærulea lazula* (Lesson) of Central America—that is to say, thick at base, sharply pointed, and with the outlines relatively straight; size of bill, however, smaller. Coloration of adult males darker and more purplish blue than *G. c. lazula*, darker even than *G. c. eurhyncha* Coues of eastern Mexico, the backs of worn individuals being nearly black. Coloration of females much like *G. c. eurhyncha*, although perhaps slightly paler and less brownish in series.

Distribution.—Western Mexico from Guerrero (Amula; Chilpancingo) north through Colima (Plains of Colima) and Jalisco (Chapala; Lake Chapala; Zapotlan; Santana near Guadalajara) to Nayarit (Tepic) and extreme southern Sonora (Guirocoba).

Type.—In the British Museum. Female adult. Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico, June 8, 1889; collected by W. B. Richardson. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.257.

Remarks.—The race here described occupies the territory in western Mexico which was left blank, so far as breeding birds are concerned, when Dwight and Griscom (American Museum Novitates, No. 257) reviewed the races of *Guiraca cærulea.*

Bill measurements of ten adult males (in mm.).—

Exposed culmen.	Depth at base.
17·0–18·5	15·5–16·0

Spinus pinus perplexus, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *Spinus pinus pinus* (Wilson) of North America and *Spinus pinus macropterus* (Du Bus) of Mexico in more slaty (less brownish) and slightly darker dorsal coloration and more obsoletely streaked underparts; size slightly smaller than *S. p. pinus* and decidedly smaller than *S. p. macropterus.*

Distribution.—Mountains of southern Chiapas (San Andres) and south-western Guatemala (Chancol; Chuipache; Quetzaltenango).

Type.—In the British Museum. Female adult. San Andres, Chiapas, Mexico, May 11, 1897; collected by W. B. Richardson. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.2116.

Remarks.—The situation regarding the species *S. pinus* and *S. atriceps* is too involved to be discussed here in full. Briefly, it may be stated that these species give every evidence of undergoing complete amalgamation and what the final result will be can only be conjectured. In typical form *S. atriceps* is a green bird, devoid of streaking, with the pileum black, the chin dusky, and with a long, slender, aciculate bill which is very different from the conical acute bill of *S. pinus.* Were it not for the *very* differently shaped bills it might be argued that but one dimorphic species was present. Both *S. atriceps* and *S. pinus* attain what is essentially the adult plumage at the time of the post-juvenal moult. Intermixture of the two seems to produce a bird with immaculate, pale grey underparts in most cases. The dorsal colouring seems usually to be like *S. pinus,* but green-edged wing-

coverts and yellow-green rumps are at once noticeable. Bills vary, but usually tend toward the *S. pinus* type.

Arranged by localities the British Museum series show the following variations :—

San Andres, Chiapas. Two pure female *S. p. perplexus* one female *S. p. perplexus* with some *S. atriceps* characters.

Hacienda Chancol, Guatemala. Three pure *S. p. perplexus* including a juvenile ; one female intermediate ; one male intermediate. The last is fully adult (June and probably breeding) and has the black cap of *S. atriceps*, a mixed grey and green back which shows obsolete streaking, immaculate grey underparts, and the bill of *S. p. perplexus*.

Chuipache, Guatemala. One female *S. p. perplexus* ; two female intergrades.

Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. One pure male *S. atriceps* (the type) ; one pure male *S. p. perplexus* ; one male of mixed characters.

San Marco, Guatemala. Six pure *S. atriceps*, including two young birds just finishing the post-juvenal moult into winter plumage. The sexes seem to be alike and both young are taking on the adult plumage at this time.

Measurements (in mm.).—

S. p. perplexus.

	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Depth at base.
2 males.....	71–71	44–46	9·0–9·5	6·5–7·2
4 females	67–69	41–44	9·5–10·0	6·3–7·2

S. atriceps.

	Exposed culmen.	Depth at base.
5 males (bills only).....	11·0–12·1	6·4–6·8

Spinus notatus griscomi, subsp. nov.

Description.—Resembles *Spinus notatus forreri* (Salvin and Godman) of Durango and northward, but coloration brighter throughout ; lighter and purer (less greenish) yellow below ; brighter (less olive) green above. Differs from *Spinus notatus*

notatus (Du Bus) of eastern Mexico in lighter coloration; the males lighter and more purely yellow below and lighter green above; the females lighter and much greener below, and lighter and duller green above.

Distribution.—Western Mexico from Guerrero (Omilteme) north through Jalisco (Volcan de Colima; Sierra Madre de Nayarit; Zapotlan; Bolanos) to Nayarit (Santiago; Tepic).

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Volcan de Colima, Jalisco, Mexico, December 31, 1889; collected by W. B. Richardson. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 99.2.1.619.

Remarks.—Ludlow Griscom (Orn. Guerrero, 1934, p. 416) has previously indicated the needed subdivision of the black-headed Siskins of western Mexico, and such action has been delayed only because the status of the Durango birds needed clarification. I have recently examined the British Museum type of *S. n. forreri* Salvin and Godman. It is without question typical of the northern race which extends from Durango north through Chihuahua, Sinaloa, and eastern Sonora, and it is the southern race, therefore, which requires a name. Incidentally, the supposition of Ridgway that the type of *forreri* is in reality a female proves to be well founded.

Icterus chrysater mayensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Size smallest of any of the races of *Icterus chrysater*. Males indistinguishable in colour from the males of *Icterus chrysater chrysater* (Lesson) of Central America and *Icterus chrysater giraudii* Cassin of Colombia and Venezuela. Females similar in colour to *chrysater*—that is to say, duller and almost invariably washed with green above as compared with males.

Distribution.—Northern portion of the Yucatan Peninsula.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Peto, Yucatan, Mexico, April 1888; collected by G. F. Gaumer. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 88.12.14.1931.

Remarks.—The series of 12 specimens are from Peto (6), Izamal (2), Tuloom Island (2), and Meco Island (2). The

few specimens examined from British Honduras appear to be intermediate, but nearest to *I. c. chrysater*.

Measurements (in mm.).—

	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen from base.
8 adult males	95–99	96–105	22·5–24·2

Icterus graduacauda dickeyæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Icterus graduacauda graduacauda* Lesson, but size larger and bill thicker at base, coloration of the yellow areas, both dorsally and ventrally, lighter and brighter, although this character is most pronounced in the males.

Distribution.—The Sierra Madre of Guerrero.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Xautipa, Guerrero, Mexico, July 1888 ; collected by Mrs. H. H. Smith. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 98.12.14.1177.

Remarks.—Nine specimens of this race are available from Rincon, Omilteme, and Xautipa. Four are adult and five are juvenile, and all are in a stage of moult which shows both old and new plumages. The juveniles show the same comparative colour-characters as do the adults.

Measurements (in mm.).—

	Wing.	Tail.	Depth of bill at base.
2 adult males	103–104	104–104	11·8–12·3
2 adult females ..	moult	moult	11·8–12·1

Icterus graduacauda nayaritensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar in size to *Icterus graduacauda graduacauda*, but adult male paler and brighter yellow ; female duller and much more olive dorsally and duller yellow ventrally.

Distribution.—Known only from the vicinity of Tepic.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico, May 29, 1889 ; collected by W. B. Richardson. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 98.12.14.1177.

Remarks.—This Oriole follows the trend observable in several other species in the genus, in that sex-differences in plumage

tend to be obscured southerly and to become very much accentuated in the north-west. Perhaps the most outstanding example is that of *Icterus pustulatus*, the sexes of which are practically indistinguishable in Costa Rica, but which progressively diverge in characters northerly and become radically different in north-west Mexico.

Only two specimens of *I. g. nayaritensis* have been examined, but they are so different from specimens from other parts of the species range that it seems permissible to provide them with a name.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear sent the following description of a new species of *Sheppardia* :—

Sheppardia bensoni, sp. nov.

Description.—Above brownish-olive, lores white, superciliary streak bluish-grey, quills blackish-grey ; the outer edge of primaries 1–5 paler, the remainder edged brownish-olive, tail similar. Below uniform orange-brown, except in the middle of the abdomen which is rather paler, and in some specimens white, or nearly so.

Soft Parts.—Bill black ; feet pale mauve ; soles yellow ; iris grey-brown.

Distribution.—Chinteche District, West Nyasa District, Nyasaland.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Near Nkata Bay, Chinteche District, West Nyasa District, Nyasaland. Collected by C. W. Benson on 15 April, 1938. Collector's no. 1224. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1938.6.17.1.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 75 ; tail 59 ; culmen from base 16 ; tarsus 21 mm.

Remarks.—This bird resembles the plate of *Sheppardia gunningi* Haagar, Ann. Transv. Mus. vol. i. no. 3, 1909, but differs in the colour of the under surface. The supraocular streak of *S. gunningi* is coloured white in the plate, but in *S. bensoni* this colour is concealed by grey feathers, except in front of the eye.

Measurements of five further specimens examined :—Two males, wing 75–77 ; three females, wing 67–71 mm.

This new bird is named in honour of the collector, Mr. C. W. Benson, who has made some very remarkable discoveries in Nyasaland.

Mr. R. E. Moreau sent the following description of a new *Artisornis* :—

Artisornis winifredæ, sp. nov.

Description.—Whole of the upper parts olive-green, except the forehead and crown which are intermixed with rufous-brown. Below chin whitish, the throat, ear-coverts, side of face and chest pale rufous-brown, not being quite so deep in colour as the crown of the head ; remainder of under parts pale olive-green which is lighter in tone than the upper parts and has a yellowish tinge.

Soft Parts.—Upper mandible black, lower whitish horn, dark at tip, feet brown-black.

Distribution.—Uluguru Mts., Morogoro District, Tanganyika Territory.

Type.—In the British Museum, male, Kinole Forest, north Uluguru, Tanganyika Territory, collected by R. E. Moreau on July 11, 1937. Collector's no. 4170. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1938.6.18.1.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 54 ; tail 51 ; culmen from base 17 ; tarsus 23 mm.

Remarks.—It is possible that the specimen is not fully adult, and the fact that the rufous-brown feathers of the head are intermixed with those of olive-green, and that some of the feathers on the belly are faintly barred, rather points to this.

For the present this bird has been placed in the genus *Artisornis*, but is is doubtful whether this is correct. It agrees with *Artisornis* in the shape of the wing and bill, but has a shorter tarsus and longer tail in proportion to the length of the wing.

This new bird is named in honour of my wife.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following seven notes :—

(1) On the Status of *Buccanodon leucotis kenyæ* (Bowen), Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1930, p. 3 : Meru, Kenya Colony.

Through the kindness of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia we have been able to examine an adult male female of the series on which Bowen founded this name.

We have carefully compared these specimens with the type and series in the British Museum collection of *Buccanodon leucotis kilimense* (Shelley), 'Ibis,' 1889, p. 477 : Taveta, Taita District, southern Kenya Colony, and find that they agree well with these, and that the characters given by Bowen do not hold good. Therefore *Smilorhis leucotis kenyæ* Bowen becomes a synonym of *Buccanodon leucotis kilimense* (Shelley).

(2) On the Status of (A) *Barbatula pusillus lollesheid* van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxxvii, 1932, p. 280 : Serenli, Juba River, southern Italian Somaliland ; and (B) *Pogoniulus pusillus eupterus* Grote, Orn. Monatsb. 1928, p. 78 : Ukerwe Island, Lake Victoria, Tanganyika Territory.

(A) Through the kindness of Dr. van Someren we have had the loan of the type and other specimens of *B. p. lollesheid*. In general colour and markings these agree perfectly with *Pogoniulus p. affinis* Reichw. Orn. Cent. 1879, p. 114 ; Kipini, mouth of Tana River, eastern Kenya Colony. The wing-measurement of the type of *B. p. lollesheid*, a male, is 49 mm., as are two other females, one from the same place, and another from Neboi, Juba River ; and a female from Jebier, Juba River, has the wing 50 mm. Specimens from the Tana River area have wings 50–53 mm. ; south-eastern Kenya Colony inland as far west as Voi and eastern Tanganyika Territory (Tanga, Dar-es-Salaam) have wings of 51–53 mm., and specimens from south-western Kenya Colony and the Kilimanjaro area are 54–58 mm. A male from Chanler's Falls, northern Uaso Nyiro River, has a wing of 51 mm.

Van Someren gives 46–50 mm. for his *B. p. lollesheid*, but none of the specimens he has sent us are below 49 mm. Birds from the Juba River area measure 49–50, and those from the Tana River area 50–53 mm. The difference between *P. p. lollesheid* and *P. p. affinis* is one millimetre, with an overlap of one millimetre, a difference that does not allow of the former being recognized as a valid race.

Two adult males (wings 55 mm.) from Ngare Nairobi, west Kilimanjaro, north-eastern Tanganyika Territory, collected by Moreau on March 6, 1933 (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.7.13.36 and 37) are much more greyish-olive below than normal specimens of *P. p. affinis*, but another adult unsexed (wing 55 mm.) collected by Robin Kemp at Rombo, Kilimanjaro, on June 18, 1910 (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1910.12.26.97) is normally coloured. Moreau's specimens must therefore be considered in the category of individual variation.

(B) Grote gives as character for his *Pogoniulus pusillus eupterus* wing longer 53–58 mm., but as this measurement agrees with specimens from western Kenya Colony and the Kilimanjaro area, we are unable to recognize this race.

(3) On the Status of *Indicator exilis erlangeri* Zedlitz, Orn. Monatsb. 1913, p. 59 : Afgoi, southern Italian Somaliland.

Zedlitz places his *I. erlangeri* as a race of *I. exilis*, and in J. f. O. 1915, p. 13, gives the wing-measurement as 80–84 mm. ; which exceeds the wing-measurements of the *I. exilis* group, *i. e.*, males 72–79, females 65–72 mm., but comes within the measurement of *Indicator minor minor* Stephens, *i. e.*, 81–97 mm. As we can see no character by which this race can be distinguished, we consider *I. e. erlangeri* to be a synonym of *I. m. minor*.

(4) On the Status of (A) *Melignothes pachyrhynchus* Heuglin, J. f. O. 1864, p. 266 : Bongo, Bahr-el-Ghazal ; (B) *Indicator pygmæus* Reichenow, J. f. O. 1892, pp. 24, 132 : Bukoba, north-western Tanganyika Territory ;

(C) *Melignothes meliphilus* Oberholser, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxviii. 1905, p. 869 : Taveta, south-eastern Kenya Colony ; (D) *Indicator narokensis* Jackson, Bull. B. O. C. xix. 1906, p. 20 : Doinyo Narok ; and (E) *Indicator appelator* Vincent, Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 130 : near Zobué, Portuguese East Africa–Nyasaland Boundary.

(A) Oberholser, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxviii. 1905, pp. 871–874, reviews the groups *Indicator minor*, *I. conirostris*, and *I. exilis*, and resurrects Heuglin's *Melignothes pachyrhynchus*, giving good reasons for this decision (p. 874). Claude Grant, Ibis, 1915, p. 436, discusses *M. pachyrhynchus*, but does not come to any decision, although he points out the small size of the lost type. Reichenow, Vög. Afr. ii. 1902–03, p. 112, places this name as a doubtful synonym of his *I. pygmæus*, thus reversing the rule of priority by placing a 1892 name before a 1864 one.

Heuglin, Orn. N.O. Afr. ii. 1871, p. 772, places it as a query synonym of *I. minor*. Finsch and Hartlaub in Van der Decken, Reisen, iv. 1870, p. 516, places it as a synonym of *I. minor*, despite the disparity in size as shown in the table on p. 517. It would appear that no notice has been taken of Oberholser.

We have carefully examined this question, and find that Oberholser's decision is correct, inasmuch as Heuglin's name is not a synonym of *I. m. minor*. Heuglin's type was a male and had a bill-measurement of 10 mm. and a wing-measurement of 79 mm. *Indicator minor* has a bill-measurement of 10–12 mm. (the largest measurement being males), and a wing-measurement of, males 80–97, females 81–88 mm. ; and *Indicator exilis* has a bill-measurement of 8·5–10·5 (the largest measurement being males) and a wing-measurement of, males 72–79, females 65–72 mm.

Heuglin's description would agree with *I. minor*, but the measurements can only agree with *I. exilis*, therefore *Melignothes pachyrhynchus* Heuglin becomes a synonym of *Indicator exilis exilis* Cassin.

One specimen in the British Museum, adult male, Major

Cave collection, Wau, Bahr-el-Ghazal, has a bill of 9 and a wing of 75 mm., and agrees perfectly with an adult female from Landana, in the British Museum collection, collected by Petit on March 8, 1876. An adult female, Mabira Forest, Uganda, and an immature male, Lugalambo, Ankole, Uganda, both kindly loaned to us by Dr. van Someren (wings 72 and 74 mm.), agree perfectly with the series of *I. e. exilis* in the British Museum collection.

(B) Dr. Stresemann, of the Berlin Museum, has very kindly loaned to us the type of *Indicator pygmæus* Reichw. This is an adult female, with a wing of 79·5 mm., and in colour and markings agrees perfectly with the series of *I. e. exilis* in the British Museum collection. Therefore *Indicator pygmæus* Reichw. becomes a synonym of *Indicator exilis exilis* Cass.

(C) and (E) Through the kindness of Dr. Friedmann, of the United States National Museum, we have received photographs of the type of *Indicator meliphilus* Oberholser, which clearly shows a larger-billed bird than the type of *I. narokensis* and agrees with the four specimens we have before us, *i. e.*, Moreau's adult male from Moa, near Amani (no. 1175), Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1932.10.29.14, recorded in 'Ibis,' 1932, p. 665 ; van Someren's adult female from Soronko River, Elgon, and the adult male and female collected by Vincent in Nyasaland, Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.19 and 410, the male being the type of *Indicator appelator*, which name becomes a synonym of *Indicator meliphilus* Ober.

(D) We have been privileged to examine two specimens loaned to us by Dr. van Someren, an adult male and female from Mt. Maroto, eastern Uganda, dated Nov. 30, 1917, and these together with the type and Dr. Granvik's specimen clearly show that *I. narokensis* is a distinct species having a smaller bill and a smaller wing-measurement than *I. meliphilus*. Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 290, and Birds of Kenya Colony and Uganda, ii. 1938, p. 737, places *I. narokensis* Jackson (type in British Museum) as a synonym of *I. meliphilus* (Ober.) ; as does Granvik, Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr.

xxv. 1934, p. 51, who compared his specimen with the type of *I. narokensis*, but not with the type of *I. meliphilus*. This specimen from Kacheleba has been very kindly loaned to us by the Director of the Malmö Museum, Sweden. It agrees with the type and van Someren's specimens, and is therefore *I. narokensis*.

It is a very remarkable fact that there are two birds so very similar in coloration, but differing in size of wing and bill; and, although they both occur in the same general area in Kenya Colony, it may be found that they inhabit different types of country, as Granvik records *I. narokensis* in tall acacias in dry open country, and Moreau records *I. e. meliphilus* in the vestiges of coastal forest.

The species and races that we are able to recognize in Eastern Africa in the four groups of these Green Honey-Guides are :—

Indicator minor minor Stephens.

Indicator minor Stephens, in Shaw's Gen. Zool. ix. 1815, p. 140 : Zwartkop River, Uitenhage Division, Cape Province, South Africa ; of which *Indicator minor teitensis* Neumann, J. f. O. 1900, p. 195 : Taita, south-eastern Kenya Colony, and *Indicator exilis erlangeri* Zedlitz, Orn. Monatsb. 1913, p. 59 : Afgoi, Southern Italian Somaliland, are synonyms.

Wing 80–97 mm.

Distribution.—Uganda, Kenya Colony, and southern Italian Somaliland to Angola, Cape Province, and Natal.

Indicator minor diadematus Rüppell.

Indicator diadematus Rüppell, N. Wirbelth. Vög. 1837, p. 61 : Northern Abyssinia.

Wing 83–96 mm.

Distribution.—Eritrea, Abyssinia, and British Somaliland to the Sudan.

Indicator conirostris conirostris (Cassin).

Melignothes conirostris Cassin, Proc. Acad. Philad. 1856, p. 156, pl. 2 : Moonda River, Gabon.

Wing 85–97 mm.

Distribution.—Gabon and Cameroon to north-western Kenya Colony.

Indicator exilis exilis (Cassin).

Melignothes exilis Cassin, Proc. Acad. Philad. 1856, p. 157 : Moonda River, Gabon, of which *Melignothes pachyrhynchus* Heug. and *Indicator pygmæus* Oberholser are synonyms.

Wing 64–79·5 mm.

Distribution.—Southern Nigeria to south-western Sudan, Uganda (Lugalambo, Ankole ; and Mabira Forest), and north-western Tanganyika Territory (Bukoba).

Indicator exilis meliphilus (Ober.).

Melignothes exilis meliphilus Oberholser, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxviii. 1905, p. 869 : Taveta, south-western Kenya Colony, of which *Indicator appelator* Vincent, Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 130 : Zobué, Portuguese East Africa–Nyasaland Boundary, is a synonym.

Wing 73–80 mm. Four specimens examined.

Distribution.—Southern Nyasaland, through Portuguese East Africa to north-eastern Tanganyika Territory (Moa, near Amani), and Elgon (Soronko River).

A comparison of skins clearly shows that Oberholser is correct in placing this as a race of *I. exilis*.

Indicator narokensis Jackson.

Indicator narokensis Jackson, Bull. B. O. C. xix. 1906, p. 20 : Doinyo Narok, south-eastern Kenya Colony.

Wing 65–70 mm. Four specimens examined.

Distribution.—Eastern Uganda (Mt. Maroto) and north-western Kenya Colony (Kacheleba) to southern Kenya Colony (Mt. Doinyo Narok).

(5) On the Status of *Prodotiscus insignis reichenowi* Madarasz, Ann. Mus. Nat. Hung. ii. 1904, p. 206 : Moshi, north-eastern Tanganyika Territory.

Bannerman, 'Ibis,' 1923, p. 724, states that doubt has been cast on this race ; Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 292,

and Sclater and Moreau, 'Ibis,' 1932, p. 666, also cast doubt on the validity of this race.

The British Museum collection contains eight specimens from western and south-western Abyssinia, Nairobi, Kenya Colony, and Essimingor (50 miles west of Mt. Meru), Oldeani and Amani, north-eastern Tanganyika Territory. All these agree perfectly one with the other, the wing-measurements being 67–73 mm.; the latter measurement is the bird from western Abyssinia and agrees with that given for the type of *P. i. reichenowi*.

The slight individual variation in this series is quite sufficient to preclude the recognition of *P. i. reichenowi*, which thus becomes a synonym of *P. i. ellenbecki* Erlanger, O. M. ix. 1901, p. 182: Daroli (upper Webi Shebeli), Arussi, south-eastern Abyssinia.

(6) On the Status of *Prodotiscus regulus peasei* O. Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xi. 1901, p. 67: Unji, Central Abyssinia.

Claude Grant, 'Ibis,' 1915, p. 437, casts considerable doubt on the validity of this race; but suggests that it may stand on size. Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 291, and Friedmann, Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1930, p. 472, are both doubtful as to whether it should be recognized.

As has been shown, the tail-character does not hold, and we now find that further material of the typical bird in the British Museum gives wing-measurement as 71–83 mm., the type of *P. r. peasei* having a wing of 82 mm. It is therefore clear that there is now no character by which *P. r. peasei* O. Grant can be separated from *P. r. regulus* Sundevall, of which it becomes a synonym.

(7) On the Type-locality and Type of *Dendromus scriptoricauda* Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. 1896, p. 131.

Claude Grant, 'Ibis,' 1915, p. 452, was of opinion that Reichenow founded this name on Hargitt's description in Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. xviii. 1890, p. 102, and that therefore the type was the specimen in the British Museum collected by Kirk and listed by Hargitt.

Sclater, Bull. B. O. C. xlvi. 1925, p. 14, states that he submitted a pair of birds, collected by Belcher in Nyasaland and now in the British Museum collection, to Dr. Stresemann, who pronounced that they agreed with Reichenow's species. Sclater then gives Bumi, Tanganyika Territory, as the type-locality.

As these statements are diametrically opposed and the matter seemed far from clear, we wrote to Dr. Stresemann, who, under date April 4, 1938, very kindly replied :—" *Dendromus scriptoricauda* Rchw., 1896, has not been based on Hargitt's bird, but on a series of specimens already represented in the Berlin Museum in 1896. Reichenow, after finding out the characters of *D. scriptoricauda* with the help of the Berlin material, only stated that Hargitt had listed the East African bird under a wrong name, when he called it *Campethera cailliautii*. Reichenow himself has marked as type a female collected by R. Bohm, August 18, 1880, near Bumi."

In the original description Reichenow makes no mention of a series nor of a type ; but he does give a new description and as he gives wing 105–115 mm. it does indicate that he had more than one specimen. The question really turns on whether Reichenow named Hargitt's description and specimen, or whether he described his new bird on a series he had before him in Berlin.

Although Reichenow's article is ambiguous and he failed to state that he had a series or had selected the type, we can agree with Stresemann that Reichenow was naming the East African species and not Hargitt's description in the Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. Therefore the type of *Dendromus scriptoricauda* Rchw. is not in London, but in Berlin ; and the type-locality is Bumi, Morogoro District, eastern Tanganyika Territory.

As regards Kirk's specimen listed by Hargitt, there is no doubt whatever that it was not collected at Lamu, Kenya Colony, and must have been collected by Kirk on the Lower Zambesi, or in Nyasaland. No doubt Shelley was the cause of this error when relabelling the birds and destroying the original labels.

Mr. Dunajewski, of the Warsaw Zool. Museum, sent the following description of a new race of Flycatcher :—

Muscicapa striata berliozi, subsp. nov.

Description.—Above light brownish ashy-grey, lighter and greyer than the typical form, greyer than *M. s. balearia* Jord. and *M. s. sarudnyi* Snig., lighter than *M. s. neumanni* Poche. Lower parts white, the streaks on the breast greyish but distinct, more distinct and heavier than in *M. s. balearica* Jord. and *M. s. sarudnyi* Snig. Flanks brownish. Secondaries, tertiaries, and greater wing-coverts edged with whitish, primaries and tail-feathers darker than in *M. s. sarudnyi* Snig. Wing longer than in *M. s. balearica* Jord., which is the closest and most similar form.

Distribution.—French N. Africa.

Type.—Male, 12. v. 1923, El Kantara, Algeria, in Mus. d'Hist. Nat. in Paris.

Measurements.—Wing, three males, 87·5–91, five females, 86·5–89 ; bill from nostrils 8·5–9·5 mm.

Remarks.—Through the courtesy of Mr. J. Berlioz, I was able to study the specimens of *Muscicapa striata* Pall. in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, and I noticed that the specimens of North Africa represent a still unnamed peculiar form.

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